



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MARCH | 2023

Center/Division: RTC-CAR

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>															
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>WRITING A WINNING PROJECT/TRAINING PROPOSAL</p> <p>Project proposals are vital for funding agencies/offices/companies for an objective, informed and data-driven decision. The probability and possibility of proposals to be funded depends on its feasibility, practicality and the criteria set by an office. Preparing a comprehensive one needs enough knowledge and skill to have a winning proposal in the end.</p> <p>For the Agriculture Offices of the Local Government Units (LGUs) of the Cordillera Region, most must source out funds to finance the needs of their farmers due to lack of funds allotted to agriculture. The Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) who work directly with the farmers have firsthand observation of their needs. It was also observed that project proposals submitted at the Center needs more polishing and coaching for a more presentable one. This training on project proposal was one of the training courses under the Training Program on Extension Delivery Service Enhancement. Prior to this course, the AEWs have undergone the course on Community Needs Assessment to capacitate them on the tools and skills of conducting needs assessment and come-up with a bottoms-up identification of needs as basis for extension interventions. This course is vital in the preparation of project proposals which they can propose to funding agencies.</p> <p>Generally, the training aimed that the participants will be able to develop their knowledge and skills on project proposal preparation and be able to prepare a draft one. Throughout the month, 3 batches were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Batch</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Date</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No. of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Batch 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">March 14-16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Batch 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">March 21-23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Batch 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">March 21-23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">79</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"The first step is always the hardest, the preparation of the rationale. I should really put to practice what I have learned in this training. Thank you so much for teaching us."</i> Malou Wyne Imperial, Barlig-Mt. Province</p> <p><i>"Thank you for this opportunity because my knowledge on making Project/Training Proposal was enhanced. I learned that we could include tagline words on the training or project proposal title to easily attract and catch the attention of the sponsors and target participants. Also, I've learned that a concept note is important for it summarizes the content of the Project Proposal. For the resource speakers and co-participants, thank you so much for the knowledge and insights that you have shared."</i> Adeline Tindaan, Lagawe, Ifugao</p>	Batch	Date	No. of Pax	Batch 1	March 14-16	25	Batch 2	March 21-23	27	Batch 3	March 21-23	27	Total		79
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>GAD LEARNING SESSIONS: GADTOKNOW: WE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY, March 1-2, 2023</p> <p>Gender And Development (GAD) Learning Session is a yearly activity for the ATI-RTC-CAR Staff as an avenue to continually capacitate and inform all staff of the GAD mainstreaming initiatives and efforts of the government. Also, The Center is one with the nation in the celebration of the National Women's Month conducted every March. This year, the National Women's Month Celebration is centered on the theme: WE for gender equality and inclusive society.</p> <p>The ATI-RTC-CAR is committed to contribute to this development by the different activities it will implement supportive to the National Women's Month. One of the focuses for this year's celebration is a call for the empowerment of women and girls towards maximizing their benefit from innovation and technology and bridging the gender gap in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and connectivity. The use of social media now has become the way of life of most of the population hence it is good that all staff be informed of their data privacy rights.</p> <p>In celebration, activities undertaken were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launching of the ATI-RTC-CAR Lactation Room 2. GAD Learning Session for ATI-RTC-CAR Staff 3. Purple Wednesdays for the month of March 4. Playing of the Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW's) Lupang Hinirang All Women Cast Version during Monday flag ceremonies for the month of March <p>This was participated by 33 ATI staff.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"First of all, I would like to thank the Training Management Team for this training. Thank you also for all the topics discussed. I was amazed by the discussion on the 5 Languages of Love because when I evaluated myself, I found all the results are true. I also discovered that on my part as a woman and a wife, I must also consider the feelings of my husband, workmates, and all the people whom I interact with. I have lots of takeaways that I can apply to our marriage as we start. I may not individually name the things I am grateful for in this training but again I would like to thank the TMTs for this wonderful training."</i> Mary Joy E. Walsie, Administrative Support Staff, ATI-RTC-CAR</p> <p><i>"Thank you for this time for us to know more about ourselves and our co-workers. Indeed, the concept of Gender and Development is a matter of individual perspective. So, thank you for the lessons and thank you for the discussions. We were reminded that GAD is about respecting all sex types."</i> Jaila S. Sagpa-ey, Information Officer II, ATI-RTC-CAR</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR RBOS, 4H'S AND FARM FAMILIES-BATCH 1</p> <p>Farmers nowadays should become farmer-entrepreneurs, who see their farms as a business. They see their farms as a means of earning profits. They should be passionate enough about their farm business and are willing to take calculated risks to make their farms profitable and their businesses grow. There are two parts to entrepreneurship. The first is the managerial skills needed to start and run a profitable farm business. The second is 'entrepreneurial spirit'. Both are important. Managerial skills can be taught, but an entrepreneurial spirit cannot be taught. Many farmers are already excellent managers and many also have some of the spirit of an entrepreneur. As 'price takers' many farmers have developed outstanding abilities to make the most of their resources. But being 'price takers' suggests that these farmers are not innovative, do not take risks, and lack the drive that is usually associated with an entrepreneurial spirit (2012, FAO).</p> <p>The course was designed to enhance the entrepreneurial competencies/skills of the RBO/4H/Farm Family members in the Cordillera Administrative Region in the development and improvement of agri-business community enterprises. The program aims to develop their knowledge and skills utilizing available local resources, recyclable containers, practice waste management and to demonstrate agriculture technologies with an innovative approach. In addition, the Agricultural Training Institute believes that enterprise development program is one effective support mechanism to improve productivity and sustainability of agriculture-based products. The 3-day course focused on the discovery and rediscovery of the participants' entrepreneurial potential, creativity, values orientation, strategy development, project identification and pre-business plan awareness.</p> <p>Moreover, the trainees were able to identify Personal Entrepreneurial Competencies (PECs), identify qualities of a successful entrepreneur, identify needs, goods and services offered and target markets for RBO, 4H's and Farm Families, Generated business ideas, and learn the principles and concepts of Agriprenurship and its challenges.</p> <p>The training was implemented at ATI-RTC-CAR on March 29-31, 2023, attended by 32 participants that included RBO, 4H and Farm Family from Benguet, Ifugao and Mt. Province with established farms.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"When I heard that the speaker was Mr. Edmund, I expected that I would always learn something from this training, and my expectation was met. While our training was ongoing, I enjoyed it; it was like I came here to rest, enjoy, and relax. I was able to relieve my stress through this training. I am very thankful because of so many learnings, and now what I would do is I will improve the papers of my business because this is what I am lacking."</i> Ms. Catrien P. Carpio, La Trinidad, Benguet</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>REFRESHER COURSE FOR LOCAL FARMER TECHNICIANS: A TRAINING ON BALANCED FERTILIZATION STRATEGY</p> <p>Inorganic fertilizer is a staple input of farmers when it comes to mass farming. With the global crisis in the production and importation of inorganic fertilizers, their cost suddenly increased. The Philippines is dependent on the importation of inorganic fertilizers since it does not have enough resources to produce the fertilizer that can supply the country. Due to the increase in fertilizer prices, the Department of Agriculture (DA) launched the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) Program, this pushes for the use of combined organic and inorganic inputs and other forms of strategy to attain the maximum potential of farmlands while promoting balanced fertilization in maintaining soil fertility. The said strategy applies the concept of the 4Rs in fertilization: Right Source, Right Placement, Right Amount and Rate to help enhance soil health and productivity, prevent the decline in soil fertility, and improve fertilizer availability and costs. The BFS Program is seen to enhance the agricultural production landscape with improved soil structure, and the judicious use of fertilizers towards a food—secure and resilient Philippine agricultural industry, with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.</p> <p>The Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs) are among the Department’s front runners in the extension delivery system. In cooperation with the LGUs and the DA-RFOs, they conduct farmer—to—farmer extension modality to promote and accelerate the farmers' adoption of best practices in rice production.</p> <p>Capacitating the LFTs with the latest technologies in agriculture is the Institute's contribution to the growth of the LFTs. With the current issue of the rising prices of inorganic fertilizer in the market, BFS is one of the emerging technologies that are timely in addressing this issue. Introducing this to the LFTs can help in its mass dissemination to other farmers.</p> <p>Throughout the month, 2 batches were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="862 1000 1485 1149"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Date</th> <th>No. of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 1</td> <td>March 6-10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 2</td> <td>March 27-31</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>34</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>According to the trainees they were able to learn that Bio-N is a Cheap source of nitrogen, Leaf Color Chart (LCC) application is an easier way to identify the nitrogen content of crops, and BFS is the application of both organic and inorganic fertilizers, thereby lowering production costs through nutrient recycling and reduction of inorganic fertilizers application. Moreover, they were able to know that they can achieve a higher yield by following the 4RS of the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS), they can prevent soil acidity by applying the right amount of nutrients and the applications and methods of Soil Analysis, Leaf Color Chart (LCC), Minus-One-Element Technique (MOET), Rice Crop Manager (RCM), and Soil Test kit which can guide them in Balanced Fertilizer Strategy.</p>	Batch	Date	No. of Pax	Batch 1	March 6-10	11	Batch 2	March 27-31	23	Total		34
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINORS (TOT) ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) and GAP FARM INSPECTION FOR AEWs OF CAR</p> <p>Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Compliance and Certification is an urgent practice that needs to be understood well by the extension providers specifically the agricultural extension workers, co-implementer, community policy makers and other stakeholders and the farmers in view of the implementation of Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO) and Food Safety Act of 2013.</p> <p>Being one of the major producers of highland vegetables, root crops, herbs, spices, and fruits, continues and massive advocacy and information dissemination on the updated GAP principles, GAP Inspection protocols and guidelines is very much important despite series of orientations and trainings being done. There must be continued training and updating of the partner Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), especially the newly appointed HVCD, GAP and Food Safety Focal Persons in the region. Thus, this training was conducted.</p> <p>There were thirty (30) participants per batch who are AEWs assigned under the HVCDP; Regional GAP Members, GAP and Food safety Focal persons from the different provinces who attended the training.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“Honestly, I had no believe on Good Agricultural Practices because of the negative comments of farmers that this practice gives additional expenses to them. But due to this training, I interviewed farmers that is a GAP certified farm, so this helps me to change my mind set to GAP. I was able to know the benefits and importance of PhilGAP certification, and it encourages me to conduct orientation and to encourage more farmers to apply these practices. In addition, it reminds me of the importance of food safety which I can share to farmers.” Mr. Marlou Daliling, LGU-Itogon</i></p> <p><i>“First of all, I would like to say thank you to ATI-CAR for inviting us to join in this training on GAP. I learned the basic requirements and processes to be accredited as GAP farmer. In addition, i learned food safety concerns and fertilizer and pesticide management. This is a challenge to us AEWs to extend these practices to farmers but we will do our very best.” Ms. Christy Abag, LGU-La Trinidad</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT: WEBINAR ON URBAN AGRICULTURE: PRODUCE ORGANIC VEGETABLES WITH PROVISION OF STARTER KITS</p> <p>Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 03, series of 2022, “creation of the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP), a banner program of the Department of Agriculture (DA)”, it is a policy direction of the DA to increase food production and lessen the logistics cost to soften the impact of global concerns like food security, climate change and the rising costs of fuel and other inputs. It aims to promote urban and peri-urban agriculture and other emerging agriculture practices through the Plant, Plant, Plant Program.</p> <p>In support to the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program ATI must conduct series of trainings on Urban Agriculture to be able to produce food in limited spaces, provide alternative source of livelihood and aid in solid waste management. Adoption of this emerging approach “organic vegetable farming” plays a vital role in development of agricultural sustainability through avoiding indiscriminate use of synthetic chemicals.</p> <p>Throughout the month, 5 batches were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="936 812 1637 997"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Date</th> <th>No. of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 1 and 2</td> <td>Mar 20</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 3 and 4</td> <td>Mar 22</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 5</td> <td>Mar 23</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>126</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“I have learned that composting is the life of farming. It helps in curing the soil with depleted nutrients. It is very applicable since raw materials are readily available in our surroundings. Composting is one way to help reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.” Susan Ubongen, Tadian Farmers and Fisherfolks and Irrigators Association, Cabunagan, tadian, Mt. Province.</i></p> <p><i>“I have learned how to prepare/make concoctions such as Indigenous Micro-Organisms (IMO), Fermented Fruit Juice (FFJ), Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ). In addition, I learn the importance of this concoctions and extracts to plants. From the learnings shared to us, I can say that organically produced vegetables are sweeter and nutritious. To have a healthy living we should promote organic farming.” Mc Alvin B. Fontanilla, Senior High School Student, Mt. Data, National High School, Bauko, Mt. Province</i></p>	Batch	Date	No. of Pax	Batch 1 and 2	Mar 20	50	Batch 3 and 4	Mar 22	51	Batch 5	Mar 23	25	Total		126
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) FOR CORE PGS GROUPS IN CAR</p> <p>Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) are quality assurance initiatives that follow the production-to-consumption approach in providing guarantees on the integrity and quality of organic products. PGS are locally relevant and adapted where the product distribution prioritizes local food availability for local people. It is an organic guarantee system that is widely used and accepted as a quality assurance system in the organic agriculture sector, wherein farmers provide direct assurance to consumers regarding the integrity of the product. Also, as an alternative to third-party certification, the PGS plays a vital role in rural development and farmer empowerment through active engagement of farmers in the whole process of verification, decision making, and marketing, PGS is built on the trust and integrity of farmers and consumers who conduct the certification process themselves through adherence to certification standards, guidelines, regulation, and processes, similarly observed by third-party certification.</p> <p>As an alternative and complementary tool to third-party certification, PGS plays a vital role in rural development and farmer empowerment through active engagement to the farmers in the whole process of verification, decision-making, and marketing. With its recognition by law, organic farmer practitioners will be able to get training and certification for their produce, without incurring heavy costs.</p> <p>With such, a training course was conducted in Tabuk City, Kalinga, completed by 36 participants. This was held on March 7 – 17 in Las Vegas Hotel and Restaurant - Dagupan West, Tabuk City, Kalinga. At the end of the training, the participants are expected to adopt and comply with the PGS requirements, be certified as PGS core group, and accredited as PGS group. Also, establish and operationalize PGS groups' consistent with the organic agriculture standards and corresponding technical regulations.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I learned that to become a certified organic producer, we must be part of a PGS Group and comply with the standards of the group as well as the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture. I also learned the importance of record keeping on the activities of the farm to serve as evidence as well as for documentation. In addition, I have learned the different technologies used in water filtration."</i> Ms. Micah Joy Balbuena</p> <p><i>"In this training, I have learned that record keeping is important in farming. Also, I have gained knowledge on how to formulate feeds for the livestock. For us to produce safe and healthy foods (vegetables and others), it is safer to use Botanical Pesticidal and Insecticidal. In conclusion, for a longer life, produce organic and eat organic."</i> Mr. Virgilio Delpinado</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>BANTAY ASF SA BARANGAY: “TRAINING ON SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR BARANGAY BIOSECURITY OFFICERS OF LUNA, APAYAO</p> <p>African Swine Fever (ASF) is an infectious disease of swine notifiable in the European Union (EU) and to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Susceptible pigs can be infected by direct or indirect contact with infectious animals or their fluids, ingestion of contaminated animal feed, pork, or pig products, or contact with contaminated surfaces or fomites (clothing, footwear, vehicles, farming tools, etc.) acting as mechanical vectors. As early as July 2019, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has confirmed that African Swine Fever (ASF) has reached the Philippines. Since then, ASF has been aggressively spreading affecting thousands of farmers continuously devastating the swine industry. Bantay ASF sa Barangay is a collaborative program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) under the National Livestock Program (NLP), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Academe, other relevant Government Agencies and the Private Sector which shall be implemented nationwide. It was developed by the Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (PCSP), a collegial body of swine veterinarians, a community-based approach to prevent, control, and manage ASF applying sound epidemiologic principles and available technology such as the use of ASF rapid test kits, through the cooperation of Local Government Units (LGU) and swine raisers, was successfully piloted in the province of Batangas with support from the local hog industry.</p> <p>No vaccine or treatment is available against ASF. Therefore, prevention and control of the disease is mainly based on the early detection of the disease by timely recognition in the field and efficient laboratory diagnosis, followed by the implementation of strict sanitary measures. Adequate implementation of sanitary measures will reduce the number of secondary outbreaks on domestic pig farms, which will decrease the potential contamination of the environment and finally minimize the likelihood of infection. Thus, the activity was conducted to capacitate Barangay Biosecurity Officers on collecting specimens for laboratory testing, appropriate handling of specimen, restraining technique, and preparation of animals for collection. This laboratory test will be a help and will be used to detect animals that have survived infection with ASF and in surveys to determine whether the disease might be endemic in an area.</p> <p>20 BBOs participated in the training, which was held on March 8, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR. It was agreed that he trained BBOs will be recommended to the Mayor's Office. Each BBO will have a unique identity number and serve as a permit signatory.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“Good afternoon to all of us. We are thankful for this experience. This is the first time I received this kind of training since I became a Barangay Councilor. We thank the excellent speakers and facilitators. Let us value this experience we gained here and put it in action in accordance to its purpose.” Ms. Remily O. Cachero, Barangay Kagawad, Sta. Lina, Luna, Apayao</i></p> <p><i>“I hope that what we learned from this training will be implemented. As what our speakers said, we hope that from red zone, we’ll go to pink zone or even green. Thank you to our resource speakers for explaining how to achieve our goals to become ASF free. Good afternoon to all of us.” Mr. Romulo T. Baltazar, Barangay Kagawad, San Gregorio, Luna, Apayao</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON INBRED RICE SEED PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION FOR POTENTIAL SEED GROWERS BATCH 1</p> <p>Prompted by the surging inflation of rice prices, the Republic Act 11203 (Rice Tariffication Law) was enacted, replacing the quantitative restriction of rice imports with general tariffs. Upon the passage of the law, the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) was created to directly support rice farmers and fund innovative undertakings to further strengthen the rice industry. It shall be provided with an annual appropriation of Php 10 billion for the procurement of farm machinery and equipment; rice development, propagation, and promotion; expanded rice credit assistance; and extension services.</p> <p>In particular, RCEF shall be allocated and disbursed to rice producing areas as follows: Section (a)-fifty percent (50%) for Rice Farm Machineries and Equipment; and shall be released to and implemented by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Modernization (PhilMech); Section (b)-thirty percent (30%) for Rice Seed Development, Propagation and Promotion which shall be released to and implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); Section (c)- ten percent (10%) for the Expanded Rice Credit Assistance which shall be made available in the form of credit facility to be managed by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); and Section (d)- ten percent (10%) shall be made available for the extension services provided by PhilMech, PhilRice, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for teaching skills on rice crop production, farm mechanization and knowledge/technology transfer through farm schools nationwide.</p> <p>In the RCEF seed program, the promotion and use of high-quality inbred rice are seen as key interventions in improving our rice farmers' productivity and profitability. As such, in support of these thrusts, ATI-CAR under the RCEF extension component, continues its delivery of training programs to enhance the technical capabilities of potential seed growers and to help ensure the availability of quality rice seeds in CAR. In connection with this, it is greatly hoped that more potential seed growers will be motivated to plant inbred rice to continuously supply high-quality seeds in the region as well as to other regions.</p> <p>The training provided the participants with new learnings about the different testing for seeds like purity test, and the use of different methods for moisture content determination. They were able to learn about the different considerations regarding the storage of seeds in the warehouse which is essential in becoming a seed grower and producer. On March 13-17, 2023, 18 participants attended the training in Lamut, Ifugao.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I would like to thank the training facilitators for inviting us to be part of this training. The training will help me to improve my farming practices especially to the proper irrigation system, right timing of applying fertilizers and most importantly on managing the insect and pest that are present in the rice farm." – Mr. Rolly S. Labrador, Jr.</i></p> <p><i>Becoming a seed grower and a producer is a bit challenging. I am blessed on this training because I learned a lot regarding rice farming wherein, I need to involve the Lord in all I do. Although I may not be a seed grower, I can still apply what I learned in the future. Some of which are selecting good seeds, proper sowing, proper timing in applying fertilizers, and other important things to do in becoming a seed grower" – Mr. Jonice Dulinayan</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>RICE CROP MANAGER ADVISORY SERVICE RCMAS CAMPAIGNS/BRIEFING</p> <p>The Rice Crop Manager (RCM) is a computer and mobile phone-based tool providing rice farmers with a personalized crop and nutrient management guideline. It is one of the Crop Managers developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in partnership with various research and extension institutions in Asia.</p> <p>The RVM in the Philippines is being implemented through the RCM Advisory Service (RCMAS) – a web-based platform that consolidates RCM and complementary decision-making tools and services into one integrated advisory and information service for Filipino rice-based farmers.</p> <p>This activity aimed to assist the AEWs in the MLGUs in raising the awareness of rice farmers on the RCMAS, in registering rice farmers in the RCMAS farmers database, and in generating RCM recommendations for the farmers.</p> <p>Throughout the month, 3 batches were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="687 813 1547 972"> <thead> <tr> <th>BATCH</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>VENUE</th> <th>NO. OF PAX</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 1</td> <td>March 14</td> <td>Ducligan, Banaue, Ifugao</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 2</td> <td>March 14</td> <td>Bunhian, Aguineldo, Ifugao</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 3</td> <td>March 16</td> <td>Amganad, Banaue, Ifugao</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The output of the activity is that rice farmers registered in the RCMAS farmers database.</p>	BATCH	DATE	VENUE	NO. OF PAX	Batch 1	March 14	Ducligan, Banaue, Ifugao	22	Batch 2	March 14	Bunhian, Aguineldo, Ifugao	32	Batch 3	March 16	Amganad, Banaue, Ifugao	20
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>FILIPINO YOUNG FARMERS INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN TAIWAN (FYFIPT) BATCH 3 FY 2023 NATIONAL EXAMINATION</p> <p>One of the major thrusts of the Department of Agriculture (DA) is to support young Filipino farmers and transform them into farm leaders and agricultural entrepreneurs. In relation to this, the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Training Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT) was launched in 2020. It is an 11-month internship program in Taiwan for qualified young Filipino farmers. It is an international exchange program in which it is a reciprocal relationship between the two (local and international) agencies allowing its stakeholders to be exposed to non-traditional forms of acquiring knowledge in a certain period. This program provides countless opportunities for its local candidates interested in developing advanced skills and knowledge about modern agricultural and fisheries techniques, marketing strategies, and cooperative management, specifically in Agriculture and becoming agricultural entrepreneurs and farmer leaders.</p> <p>The DA-ATI, in partnership with the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines (TECO), is currently in its third year of FYFIPT implementation. As part of the recruitment process, regional screening was stipulated in the selection process guidelines. The screening includes a written examination, interview, and field validation. The national simultaneous written examination is scheduled on March 23, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.</p>
		<p>PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) ORIENTATION</p> <p>The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Orientation was an initiative of PAERNO- Ifugao. It was requested by the office to the Center, which was attended by OA practitioners, OA Focal per MLGU of the province, and PAENRO Staffs per se (34 pax in total) on March 6, 2023, at Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Hall- Ifugao Provincial Capitol, Lagawe, Ifugao.</p> <p>Mr. Edwin C. Dickson, Agriculturist II, gave an overview of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) covering the requirements of becoming a member of the PGS Core Group, accreditation processes, and Manual of Operations for PGS. Furthermore, supplemental instructions were relayed to the participants if they can form a federated PGS Core Group to serve as the Provincial Certifying Body or to be done per municipality or by clustering of municipalities.</p> <p>Actions Needed Formulation of a PGS Core Group that would cater to all OA Farmers of the province.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>								
Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	Validation	VALIDATION OF COMMUNITY URBAN AGRICULTURE MODEL FARM (CUAMF) APPLICANT IN TADIAN, MT. PROVINCE AND EVALUATION OF EXISTING COMMUNITY URBAN AGRICULTURE MODEL FARM (CUAMF) IN BAUKO, MT. PROVINCE CUAMF validation is one of the initial activities towards certification. The results of the validation spell the qualifications of the applicants.								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="682 555 1248 587">Name and Address of Farmer</th> <th data-bbox="1248 555 1826 587">Findings</th> <th data-bbox="1826 555 2414 587">Remark/Recommendations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="682 587 1248 867"> Tadian Farmers, Fisherfolks and Irrigators Association (TaFFIA) </td> <td data-bbox="1248 587 1826 867"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSO Accredited - Privately owned by Mr. and Ms. Benafin. They are willing to share their farm to the association as a community garden for Tadian Farmers, Fisherfolks and Irrigators Association - Facility is available with the organization with an area approximately 1000 sq. meters </td> <td data-bbox="1826 587 2414 867"> Recommended for certification </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name and Address of Farmer	Findings	Remark/Recommendations	Tadian Farmers, Fisherfolks and Irrigators Association (TaFFIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSO Accredited - Privately owned by Mr. and Ms. Benafin. They are willing to share their farm to the association as a community garden for Tadian Farmers, Fisherfolks and Irrigators Association - Facility is available with the organization with an area approximately 1000 sq. meters 	Recommended for certification		
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Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	Validation	<p>VISITATION AND FIELD VALIDATION OF FYFIP APPLICANTS IN KALINGA, March 28-30, 2023</p> <p>Prior to the activity, orientation and screening of applicants through written exam was conducted at the Center. Those who passed the examination and those who submitted their basic documentary requirements were considered for validation.</p> <p>The activity was conducted by Ms. Veronica Siloy, RBO Coordinator, Mr. Edwin Dickson, OA Focal Person, and Mr. Edimer Paduyao, Technical Support Staff. Four applicants who passed the examination for the FYFIP were ranked according to their score and were qualified for validation. Upon validation, it was found out that they are eligible to be endorsed to ATI-CO for final screening.</p> <p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Applicants to complete and submit requirements to ATI-RTC-CAR not later than April 5, 2023.
Expanding Partnerships Along the Value Chain Through Advisory Services (Advise)	Empowering Farmers and Fisherfolk through Advisory Services	<p>The Center continued to maintain the library, as it plays an essential role in providing safe, accessible, and 100% free educational resource centers for every client.</p>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintained/Updated the Center's website and social media accounts <i>(1 website, 1 FB page, 1 FB Profile, 1 Youtube Channel)</i>. ✓ DA-ATI-RTC-CAR intensified its online promotions with 39 posts in social media. With the said uploads, there were 77,642 individuals reached. ✓ Throughout the month, a total of 1,501 print materials were reproduced and 550 print materials were disseminated. ✓ 1 success story documented



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Benchmarking activity	<p>FIELD BENCHMARKING OF IMPLEMENTED ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FACILITY</p> <p>The preparation and implementation of Swine Artificial Insemination sa Barangay Project, a repopulation effort by the Department of Agriculture to mitigate the adverse effects of African Swine Fever thru INSPIRE Program, a benchmarking was undertaken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ newly constructed Artificial Insemination Facility at Vaughn’s Eco Farm Agritourism and Training Center Inc. at Rosario, La Union on March 14 <p>The newly constructed Swine Artificial Insemination Facilities were inspected by ATI-Region 1 and ATI-ITCPH last February 28, 2023. The following are some of the comments and suggestions shared by Dr. Requidan regarding the construction of the facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The location of the waste treatment structures digester must not be the same as the location of the cooling pad as it will contaminate the air passing through the cooling pad. If possible, waste treatment structures must be located at the side of the Swine AI facility. ➤ Provide sufficient perimeter fence to secure the area thus ensuring biosecurity. ➤ Provide sufficient footbaths at the entrance of the facility. ➤ Provide cooling pad with screen protection as safeguard against accidental damage. ➤ Biogas chamber must be constructed as dome type. ➤ Partitions for Boar pens must be closed below to ensure no cross contamination of waste from one pen to another. ➤ Provide longer nipple drinkers. ➤ If possible, locks for boar pens must be “caged locks” for easier locking and unlocking of pen doors. ➤ A rear of boar pens must ensure mobility for drinking and feeding. ➤ If possible, curtains must be removed fast during times of no electricity to provide immediate ventilation. ➤ If possible, provide cooling apparatus (aircon) for the laboratory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ the proposed site in Barangay Otucan, Bauko, Mt. Province on March 19-20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposed site is a flat terrain grass land with a total area of 4-hectares owned by the Provincial Government of Mountain Province. It has a concrete access road with electricity <p>Actions needed – to prepare plans and estimates for the (10 sow facility) that will best suit the conditions of the identified site of the beneficiary. The plans and estimates will try to accommodate the recommendations and suggestions if budget allows.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Benchmarking activity	<p>BENCHMARKING OF FCAS TO THE SOROSORO IBABA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE AS THEIR INSTITUTIONAL BUYER IN BATANGAS CITY</p> <p>This four-day activity conducted at Baranay Ibaba, Batangas City was attended by different representatives from ATI-CO, ATI RTCs, SIDC Staffs and Reps, and FCAs (37 pax in total). Highlights of the activity are as follows:</p> <p>Mr. Rico Gernon, SIDC CEO highlighted the capabilities of SIDC and encouraged the FCAs to in the membership for a sustainable partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Emerson Yago, DMO IV of ATI-CO, discussed the CBF Project's primary objective, which is to connect FCAs with Institutional buyers. He said that this would be an opportunity for a long-lasting cooperation or partnership between FCAs of Manakayan and SIDC. ○ Ms. Gonzales of SIDC presented the Coop's success stories where she outlined the humble beginning of the cooperative until it earned its success. With 63,866 members and 1,696 workers, the SIDC has a share capital of 1.1 billion, assets worth 6.1 billion, savings mobilization of 2.3 billion, and koop pinoy loan of 2.4 billion. ○ They agreed for SIDC to inform the FCAs regarding the quantity of additional vegetables they will purchase on or before March 4, 2023. A few cluster members were also eager to test out their swine meals and organic fertilizer. They've already placed an order and will deliver during their first market testing. <p>February 28, 2023- Day 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tour to the SIDCs main office, warehouse-storage of goods, convenience store, gas refilling station, warehouse of animal feeds, feed mill, koop likas organic fertilizer factory, and Tanauan City Trading post. <p>March 1, 2023- Day 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducted Pre-membership Seminar (PMES) for the group, which they responded positively by filling out membership. <p>Actions Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SIDC to provide update on the quantity to purchase before March 4,2023 to FCA Market cluster officer in preparation for the first market testing on March 6, 2023. • The agreed price is not yet final or fixed. The SIDC is not yet ready for a fixed price for vegetables. They will base the price on the existing buying price in the market. • The FCAs to conduct a General Assembly.



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES Intervention	<p>PROGRAM TASKING ON PAFES BENCHMARKING ACTIVITY AND REVIEW ON THE GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALLOCATED PHP88M BUDGET FOR THE PAFES</p> <p>On March 9, 2023, the program tasking on PAFES benchmarking activity and review on the Guidelines on the management implementation of the allocated Php88M budget for the PAFES was held at 4-H Hall, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR headed by Sir Charlie C. Sagudan, Center Director. The meeting was attended by seven (7) DA-ATI-RTC-CAR staffs together with three (3) body from DA-FOD.</p> <p><u>Guideline Review, Issues and Concerns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DA-RFO-CAR- to issue regional supplemental guidelines expanding or emphasizing RPMO to amend the MOA and to modify some of the forms. ➤ If MOA can be amended, the body wants to include the RPMO if not, the DA-RFO as signatory not just ATI-RTC and PLGU to become a tripartite MOA. ➤ Dr. Virginia A. Tapat requested an agenda for request on the amendment of RPMO structure in March. ➤ The MOA to include the responsibilities of the PLGUs for the ATI-managed as indicated under 4.2.2, with the reiteration of report submissions as main functions of the A/TMT. ➤ There should be an orientation regarding to the guidelines and MOA to the implementing RTCs and Regional Program Management office (RPMO). ➤ DA-BAR R&D Forms attached- to modify or add (for M&E concerns) as deemed appropriate to include needed information (e.g. Progress report form- add column for annual target and percent of disbursement and to include submitted by). ➤ Under Item 4.1.3- Proposal Screening and Approval, there is initial evaluation, but no final evaluation mentioned as part of the process. ➤ For ATI-managed- what if the budget allocation is not fully utilized, will the concerned PLGU proposed additional activity? <p>Submission of provinces for the progress report is on the 25th day of the month and the deadline for submission is 30th the month.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES Intervention	<p>CORDILLERA PAFES CY 2023, OPERATIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP CUM INAFES BENCHMARKING</p> <p>The PAFES is one of the 18 strategies of the OneDA Reform Agenda of the Duterte Administration that aims to strengthen the collaboration between DA, local government units, academe, and private sector to bring extension services to the grassroots level. It is an institutional mechanism to support the full implementation of Executive Order No. 138 that mandates the full devolution of functions to LGUs pursuant to Mandanas-Garcia ruling.</p> <p>In the Cordillera Administrative Region, its implementation has been recognized to be one of the best nationwide in 2022. Despite the various challenges, all deliverables were met in 2022 starting from the conduct of the Rapid Appraisal to approval of MOA and creation of PAFES Center until the development of their CPAFEP or the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Plan.</p> <p>65 participants (LGUs, DA-RFO-CAR, BFAR-CAR, ATI-RTC-CAR) participated in this Cordillera PAFES CY 2023 conducted on March 14-16, 2023, at JLP Resort, Paoay, Ilocos Norte. After this activity, participants enhanced and finalized their CPAFEP and developed a plan for the smooth implementation of their CPAFEPs.</p>
		<p>1ST QUARTER PAFES ASSESSMENT, JLP Resort, Paoay Ilocos Norte, March 14, 2023</p> <p>The activity aims to: present the FY 2023 PAFES Funds Implementing Guidelines, list issues and concerns regarding the PAFES Guidelines, and update the status of the project proposal of the six provinces of CAR and conduct an initial assessment. It was participated by PAs, PPDOs, PVets, SB Chair for Agriculture, members of PAFES provincial secretariat / PMG, BFAR-CAR, ATI-RTC-CAR and, DA CAR-RFO. The activity was facilitated by DA -CAR RFO, BFAR-CAR and ATI-RTC-CAR.</p> <p>ISSUES and CONCERNS RAISED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PA Domingo B. Mariano of Ifugao raised a concern on the program management on the guidelines. Dr. Virginia A. Tapat reiterated that ATI-RTC CAR is allowed to hire COS to help in the implementation of the PAFES but not to be assigned to any of the six provinces. ✓ PA Bakilan of Kalinga pointed out the concern of the downloaded fund where it only refers to the ATI-RTC-CAR. Dr. Tapat stated that in the rationale the fund comes from the DA national rice program to the ATI. Then the ATI central downloaded the funds to the Centers. ✓ Assistant PA Mary Jane S. Tumapang of Mt. Province asked “why is it that in the National guidelines, only ATI-managed fund is explicitly explained or with indicated roles of ATI and the PLGU”. Dr. Tapat answered that, the management is on the LGUs so the procurements will be on the LGUs and it is assumed that you know how to procure. Second question was “if the criteria from the national guideline will be followed in evaluating the project proposals?” Dr. Tapat stated that they will use the criteria but will consider lowering the passing grade of 85%. ✓ Tomasa Atayoc, Benguet Budget Officer asked, “if the it will be fund transferred, what will be the validity of the fund?” Dr. Virginia A. Tapat responded that the validity of the fund will be on the validity of MOA, meaning until 2023 only.



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES Intervention	<p>EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS OF THE SIX PROVINCES OF CAR</p> <p>This two-day activity conducted at 4-H Hall, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR was attended by Mr. Maximino R. Aromin Jr., Ms. Jaila S. Sagpa-ey, Ms. Brandy L. Banda-ay, Ms. Resley Ann Sumedca, Mr. Bongbong L. Buli-e, Mr. Adrian Velasco, Ms. Veronica Siloy, Mr. Jomar T. Guerzon, Mr. Maylene Moyamoy, Ms. Mae D. Kio-isen from DA-FOD, and Ms. Lois June B. Fermin from BFAR-CAR. Highlights of the activity are as follows:</p> <p>March 21, 2023 Reviewed the 6-project proposal submitted by the provinces of CAR. There were comments and suggestions made to improve the proposals of each province. The comments and suggestions were sent by Mr. Aromin, PAFES regional focal person-ATI-CAR on the concerned provinces respectively through email.</p> <p>March 30, 2023 Continued to evaluate and assess the project proposal that the CAR provinces had submitted. When the six proposals were reviewed, only three provinces made the fewest adjustments and adhered to the formatting instructions. Abra, Benguet, and Mountain Province will be refined before being assessed, whereas the provinces of Apayao, Ifugao, and Kalinga were already graded.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	CBF- MAFF Project	<p>2ND PROJECT SITE VISIT OF THE JAPANESE EXPERT WITH THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE CBF MAFF</p> <p>This five-day activity conducted at ATI-RTC-CAR and Balili, Mankayan, Benguet was attended by TCS II Charlie Sagudan, Ms. Cristine Esnara Mr. Romualdo Bantag, Mr. Emerson Yago, and Ms. Theresa Aurora Cosico from ATI-CO. Highlights of the activity are as follows:</p> <p>March 6, 2023 - Day 1 Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A quick meeting to go through the schedule and events for the PMT and JA-ZENCHU's second visit. Project managers from ATI-CO, Mr. Emerson Yago and Ms. Theresa Aurora Cosico, as well as Mr. Muhammad Fikri Kodri, a representative from JA-ZENCHU's Project Management Team, were present. <p>March 7, 2023 – Day 2 Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Theresa facilitated the JA-ZENCHU lecture. She acknowledges the presence of Manpat-a Farmers' Association, Blestdam Farmers Association, Raniag Farmers Association, SWG, PMT, and JA-ZENCHU. ➤ Mr. Akihiro Takahashi lectured on the basic knowledge of soil and soil diagnosis. He elaborated on the purpose of soil diagnosis, plant absorption of elements and nutrients, 17 essential elements, the differences between macronutrients and micronutrients, how to collect soil samples, soil pH, and soil acidity countermeasures.



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	CBF- MAFF Project	<p>March 8, 2023 – Day 3 Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SWG discussed the GAP Certification process in detail as requested by the JA-ZENCHU and observes the implementation of GAP and GAP Processes. ➤ Mr. Inconcencio Bernard, Provincial GAP Focal Person explained the GAP certification process. ➤ Mr. Akihiro Takahashi used his soil pH tester to conduct soil pH testing. The farmers brought their soil samples to the Monolithic Dome. ➤ They visited the farm of Mr. Chester Ngaseo, Blestdam Farmers Association member. One of the three implementers of the 1st cycle of the Potato production module. <p>March 9, 2023 – Day 4 Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seminar on Agricultural Cooperative was conducted by Mr. Chikara Sato of JA-ZENCHU with his interpreter Mr. Hiroshi Okamoto. The participants were 21 members of the 3 FCAs. He also discussed the Marketing Business of Agricultural Cooperatives and considered applying it in the Philippines. <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“We began this seminar last Tuesday and we have learned about soil analysis, soil conditioning, soil diseases, and today we have learned about agricultural cooperative marketing that we will use on our products. Thank you very much on behalf of our entire FCA group.” Ms. Sonia Gad-o-an</i></p> <p><i>“We learned a lot of information, thank you very much for your knowledge and motivation; the lecture was enjoyable, and we hope to see you again soon; how we wish that the next time you come back, you can bring sample of your technology from Japan. With so much knowledge that you shared, we will apply it in the future or when we return home and work, and we hope to achieve the same progress that you have in Japan.” Ms. Haynalyn O-oc</i></p> <p><i>“Thank you very much for inviting us to this seminar, which we completed as a group.” Ms. Lorena Liccud</i></p> <p>March 10, 2023 – Day 5 Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JA-ZENCHU present their recommendations and proposed activities on the 3rd visit to the Philippines attended by Dir. Charlie Sagudan, Cristine Esnara, Theresa Aurora Cosico, and the PMT members.



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Orientation	<p>RBO CAR COORDINATORS ONLINE ORIENTATION ON FYFIPT IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES <i>March 3, 2023, Zoom Meeting</i></p> <p>The activity highlighted and was discussed to the RBO CAR representatives (10 pax in total) the memorandum on the search for the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT) Batch 3 and the implementing guidelines for the International Exchange Program. The rationale, objectives, program output and desired outcomes down to the expenses was reiterated. Moreover, the process overview of the application as well as the schedule of activities was also discussed and give emphasis to the vaccination status.</p> <p>It was agreed upon by the RBO Focal person together with the coordinators (PLGU and MLGU), that two (2) young farmers per province including 2 from Baguio City and 2 from Tabuk City with a total of 16 applicants, will be recommended of the examination and screening. Ms. Siloy also stressed that the young farmers will be sent off as interns and not OFWSs thus, they will be given allowance instead of receiving salary.</p> <p>Ms. Noriebelle Salibad from Tabuk City requested to have another run down for the schedule of activities. The guidelines, requirements, and forms to be accomplished were cascaded a day before the meeting.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	International Farm Youth Exchange	<p>INTERNATIONAL FARM YOUTH EXCHANGE (IFYE) DELEGATES FROM TAIWAN VISIT TO ATI-CAR</p> <p>International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) is a joint program by the United States Department of Agriculture through the US National 4-H Council and the Philippines Department of Agriculture through ATI and the National 4-H Advisory council of the Philippines. This program extended to other partner countries: South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and other Asian countries. It is a 6-month program designed for outstanding youth leaders financed by the U.S. 4-H Clubs Foundation and the Philippines National 4-H advisory Council.</p> <p>On March 25-30, 2023, 20 IFYE delegates from Taiwan visited the Philippines. A two-day (March 24-26, 2023) visit to the CAR Region mainly Baguio City and the municipalities of La Trinidad and Tublay, Benguet as part of their itinerary. They will be observing the Strawberry Farm, Strawberry Festival, and visiting some projects specifically under the extension programs of the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>Upon arrival from Tublay, Benguet the IFYE delegates was toured around DA-ATI-CAR Training Center including the Urban Garden and the facilities by ATI-CAR Staff. They were oriented on the operations of the ATI-CAR and the Urban Garden. The corporate video of the DA-ATI was also presented while Ms. Siloy discussed what is ATI-CAR and their functions as the training arm of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Danny Agliam, IFYE President Philippines was also present as their counterpart here in the Philippines. He acted as their tour guide during their visit.</p> <p>The status of the international internship program in Japan and Taiwan was also part of their sharing and discussion. Some of the Taiwan delegates shared their experiences as IFYE representative in other countries and here in the Philippines. Mr. Cristino Balancio, Former ATI-CAR Staff, 4-H Coordinator and IFYE himself was present to welcome and share experiences with them.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Orientation	<p>CONDUCT OF ORIENTATION AND MOA SIGNING TO GRANTEES AND FARM PARTNERS <i>Sab-atan Hall, ATI-RTC-CAR</i></p> <p>The provision of scholarships and trainings is one way of promoting and expanding the systems under the organic agriculture program. ATI and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) implement several scholarships program and trainings on agriculture, including organic agriculture. However, even with these programs, there are few entrants to the sector, especially among the youth. Hence, there is a need for a comprehensive approach in the provision of scholarship to include intensified and extensive hands-on training on farm, provision of start-up project support fund for the trainees, and mentoring during the implementation of enterprise project of the trainees. Also, the scholarship program is a highly specialized internship program designed to instill the develop in the trainees an appreciation and eagerness for organic agriculture and eventually adopt it as their source of income. Thus, empowering the youth to become organic agripreneurs.</p> <p>March 2, 2023- Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Generally, the activity aimed to solicit the commitment of both trainees/scholars and farm partners to ensure smooth implementation of the program of Youth Scholarship Grants and Organic Agriculture. <p>Presentation of the Youth Scholarship Grant Briefer</p> <p>Mr. Dickson discussed that the youth scholarship program is different from other scholarship grant that provide only tuition and stipend but through this program the interns will be given with a start-up support fund provided with mentor from the farm partner with the objective to empower the youth to be agripreneurs.</p> <p>Further, he explained the duties and responsibilities of Farm partners and Trainees. He encourages trainees to complete the internship program to apply the knowledge acquired in the internship program through the establishment of an organic agriculture enterprise based on the submitted BMC for a year.</p> <p>MOA Signing</p> <p>TCS II Charlie C. Sagudan informed the farm partners and trainees of their acceptance to the program and discuss the contents of the Memorandum of Agreement and Scholarship Service Contract prior to the start of internship.</p> <p>Respective ATI-RTCs and eligible farm partners shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for the conduct of the internship program. The Scholarship Contract shall be duly signed by the scholar, the Regional Center Director and ATI-RTC Head accountant as witness.</p> <p>March 3, 2023- Day 3</p> <p>Ms. Perla Epie assisted in the completion of lacking requirements and finalization of the business model canvass of Youth Scholarship Grantees.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	F2C2-PAFES Joint Consultation	<p>F2C2-PAFES JOINT CONSULTATION AND PLANNING WORKSHOP <i>March 22-23, 2023, City Travel Hotel Baguio</i></p> <p>HIGHLIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized the F2C2 Clusters for 2023. • Requested the provinces to select 1 cluster per province that would be trained under the AECA. • Under the criteria for the establishment of clusters, Madam Glo from PVet Ifugao suggested that the volume for production would be one of the main criteria since we are training them to become entrepreneurs. • There was an initial discussion on the harmonization of F2C2-PAFES structure taking the PAFES composition as F2C2 also. • Under Memo Circular #21 series of 2022 capacity building and extension support will be the responsibilities of ATI, AMAS, and National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) thru: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administration of the Enterprise Assessment Tool to determine capacity building needs; ○ Preparation of Cluster Development Modules; ○ Conduct all trainings on all aspect of the value chain; ○ Sustained Coaching and Mentoring; ○ Capacitating AEWs to support clustering and consolidation; ○ Strategic dissemination of appropriate and relevant agricultural extension services and programs to the clusters; ○ Application of acquired knowledge; skills, attitude, and practices (KSAP); and ○ Establishing feedback mechanism for the extension support system developed under PAFES. <p>Attended by Mr. Maximino R. Aromin, Jr.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Regional Strengthening of ABE Groups cum 1 st Regional Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers-CAR Chapter (PSABE-CAR)	<p>REGIONAL STRENGTHENING OF ABE GROUPS CUM 1ST REGIONAL PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERS-CAR CHAPTER (PSABE-CAR)</p> <p>On March 22-24, 2023, the activity was conducted at Davidson Hotel, Tabuk City, Kalinga was attended by ABE Groups (LGUs, SUCs, NGAs, and Private Sectors) in CAR (216 pax in total). Highlights of the activity are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of ABE Road Map 2023-2028 by Engr. Cristituto Mangaoang, ASEAN Engr • Discussed the Special Provisions and Policy Guidelines relative to the ABEs role in AFMECH Law, ABE Strengthening and ways forward in the LGUs (Engr. Emer Rose- Asug, BAFE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandanas Ruling (Sec. 17, RA No. 7160 (LGC); Sec. 31, RA No. 8435 (AFMA)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision/Repair/Upgrading and Operation, Maintenance and Management of Irrigation and soil and water conservation projects. ○ Agri-fisheries Mechanization specifically on the Local planning, research and extension implementation. ○ Postharvest facilities such as MPDP, Storage Facilities, Slaughterhouses ○ Farm to Market Roads ○ Extension and On-site research services and facilities on agricultural and biosystems engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills development and certification of farmers, fishermen, and farm workers on the proper operation and maintenance of agri-fisheries machinery and facilities ▪ Establishment and accreditation of Training Assessment Centers ▪ Promotion of matured agri-fisheries engineering technologies ▪ Establishment of mechanized/ABEdized demo farms and learning sites ▪ Provision and upgrading of agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure if extension and on-site research facilities centers. ▪ ATI must ensure capacitating of LGU ABEs to deliver efficiently extension services required by RA 7160, RA 8435, EO No. 66, RA 10601 ○ Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Regulations ○ Agricultural and Biological Waste Management and Utilization ○ Local Climate Change Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LGU-ABE Units Strengthening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2 Series 2020 (DA, DBM, CSC, and DILG) states that Local Government Units are required to strengthen or establish Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering unit and the creation of corresponding engineer position in every province, city, and municipality. • Election of Officers for PSABE-CAR Chapter. Newly elected officials for PSABE-CAR Chapter V-President: Engr. Randy Soriano, ATI-RTC-CAR



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Orientation	<p>ORIENTATION MEETING ON THE CONDUCT OF THE STUDY “ANALYSIS OF THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY EXTENSION SYSTEM LANDSCAPE March 24, 2023, Via Zoom (online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ATI-Central Office Deputy Director Antonieta Arceo and Director IV Remelyn Recoter were present together with the representatives of the Brain Trust Incorporated (BTI) headed by the C.E.O. Ms. Ella Antonio and her colleagues Mr. Cielito Habito, Mr. Roel Briones and Mr. Rex Navarro. The BTI will conduct the study. ○ The rationale of the study according to BTI is that there is a need to study the current AF extension system and capture the emerging modalities of a pluralistic and fully devolved AFES in support to the full devolution of AFE (E.O. 138) Hopefully, with the result of the study, policies can be crafted to strengthen and modernize the Philippine AFE. ○ The Study will cover 2 provinces per region. Here in CAR, Benguet and Apayao were identified as sites with 105 samples (already pre-identified by BTI). ○ Activities of the study are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FGD with ATI-CO and Regional Offices to assess the status of AF extension work/programs in the region, and determine what are the capacities of RTCs to complement and promote AF extension and what are recommendations to improve training programs and modalities along extension work; ▪ Multi-stakeholders FGD with BFAR regional offices; ▪ Key informant Interviews with stakeholders that have implemented successful programs/innovations/practices; ▪ Visit to successful/innovative cases/projects (could be an LSAs and Farm Schools) to know how they used the assistance. Their participants can also be interviewed; ▪ Interviews to 105 respondents to be done by BTI enumerators ○ The survey/study is accredited by PSA already and they will come in pairs and hopefully it will be done in just 2 months. ○ BTI requested the following assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Floating of request letters to the participants; ▪ Assistance in identifying good practices in the region; ▪ Share related documents; ▪ Inclusion/invitation of BTI team in project related activities/events of ATI ○ BTI requested that it would be nice to assign a focal person for the study whom the BTI can coordinate with; ○ The survey will start by April 11, 2023 <p>A memo will be created for this purpose assigning a focal person on this per region.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INSTITUTIONAL REPREPS	<p>CORDILLERA COFFEE INDUSTRY CLUSTER STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP USING THE VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS (VCA) APPROACH</p> <p>On March 1, 2023, the Consultation Planning workshop was conducted by DTI and the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA RFO) of the Cordillera at DTI Regional Office, Baguio City. The activity aims to assess the accomplishment vis-à-vis the road map for 2017-2022 and come up with an updated road map for 2023-2025 for the region. The activity was attended by various Stakeholders from NGAs and Bureaus, Private Sectors and NGOs from the Cordillera region. No representative from LGUs.</p> <p>The Coffee Industry Value Chain Map in CAR was presented and discussed by DTI Regional Director Juliet P. Lucas. The existing Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of the Coffee Industry in CAR were also validated as part or component in crafting the 3-year road map of coffee (2023-2025). These will be the basis in the identification of program interventions by various stakeholders.</p> <p>For the plenary workshop and discussion of the collaborative Projects, Programs and Activities (PPAs) for 2023-2023 per Strategic Objective and Key Result Area (KRA) vis-à-vis the 2021-2025 Philippine Coffee Road Map was actively participated by both participants from on-line and virtual. The discussion in the provincial levels for those attending online were facilitated by DTI Focal Persons.</p> <p>Ways forward and agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An e-copy of all presentations and discussion will be provided to all participants for finalization and inputting of interventions based on agency plans and delineations not later than March 3, 2023. ✓ LGUs to be given copies of the roadmap since they are the key implementors and they have developed their Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Plans (CPAFEP) and Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP). ✓ Training of Trainor's (TOT), Coffee tagging and training on package of technologies employing (POT) GAP to be included as major activities. ✓ List of coffee farmers to be provided Land Bank and PCIC for enrollment. <p>LGUs (OPAG and OMAG) be invited in the following activities for Coffee.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Luzon Cluster A Meeting and Consultation	<p>LUZON CLUSTER A MEETING AND CONSULTATION ON RICE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT <i>March 27-29, 2023, The Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan</i></p> <p>The Department of Agriculture – National Rice Program (DA – NRP) conducted a Cluster-Wide Meeting and Consultation on Rice Industry Development in the regions of I, II, III and CAR on March 27-29, 2023 at The Monarch Hotel, Calasiao, Pangasinan.</p> <p>“Let’s focus on outcomes, not just outputs.” said Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian, Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development, as he discussed the Masagana Rice Program and highlighted the Four Key Strategies: (1) Climate Change Adaptation; (2) Cluster our Farmers; (3) Value Chain Approach; and (4) Digital Transformation.</p> <p>Rice related national program activities were also discussed such as the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) program, Suitability and Fertility status of Rice Areas in Luzon Regions, and the Location – Specific Cropping Pattern and Calendar both discussed by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Ms. Analiza Ramos, DA – RFO1’s Field Operations Division Chief, presented the Ilocos Region’s production performance, targets for the 2023 wet and dry season, Palay farming prices, preparations for the wet cropping season, best practices, and key strategies for increasing rice production in the region.</p> <p>One concern in the region is that half of the area of Ilocos Region are rain fed and harvesting season always coincides with typhoons. “This is also a contributor aside from the lack of technology and other interventions if not all areas will be rain fed.” Ramos said.</p> <p>As a result, the panels concluded that collaborating closely with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is the best approach.</p> <p>The event was also attended by the National Rice Program Consultants, Regional Directors from CAR, Regions I, II, and III as well as representatives from various agencies, Provincial local government units, and other private sectors involved in the Rice Industry. The purpose of the cluster-wide meeting and consultation is to discuss the situation, issues, and strategies for achieving the goal of increasing productivity and farmer income in the Philippines, particularly in the rice industry.</p> <p>Mr. Randy Soriano and Ms. Resley Ann Sumedca attended this activity.</p> <p>Actions Needed Anchor the programs to be conducted by the Office on these Key Strategies.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Assessment	<p> ASSESSMENT OF OPGS LA TRINIDAD FOR ACCREDITATION AS AN ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY, March 28-30, 2023, La Trinidad, Benguet </p> <p> In 2022, the LGU - La Trinidad invited DA-ATI-CAR to train a group of organizations within La Trinidad on the Participatory Guarantee System. A federated group was then created which is the Organic Participatory Guarantee System of La Trinidad (OPGSLT) which consists of seven farmer groups namely Balili Organic farmers Association (BOFA), Shilan Organic Farmers Association (SOFA), Our Farmers Haven (Sagpawe Chapter), Tawang Organic Farmers Association (TOFA), Ambiong La Trinidad Organic Practitioners Association (ALTOPA), La Trinidad Organic Farmers Association (LOFA), and La Trinidad Organic Farmers Association (LaTOP) Multipurpose Cooperative. The group continued with the process of becoming an Organic Certifying Body assisted by the MLGU and the DA-RFO. The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) pre-assessed and assessed the core group members on July 18-21, 2022, and on October 17-21, 2022, respectively. </p> <p> Continuing with the accreditation process, this activity is for the BAFS team to verify the compliance of OPGSLT with the amended Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (RA11511) and its implementing Rules and Regulations including the Participatory Organic Certification Scheme (Guidelines for the Operations of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups as Organic Certifying Bodies). Specifically, the activity aims to: </p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. assess the effectiveness of OPGSLT's Manual of Operations and the Internal Standards; 2. assess the competence of the peer reviewers in conducting farm inspections; and 3. review documented information of the group. <p> On March 28, 2023, an Opening Meeting followed by the Office Audit was held at the Sab-atan Hall, DA-ATI-CAR. During the opening, Mr. Vicente Limsan Jr. of the BAFS discussed the objectives of the assessment, the methods which are a physical meeting, interviews, and observations. He also presented the audit criteria and the scope of audit. The scope includes only crop production and animal production. The farms inspected were of Mr. Rogel Marzan in Beckel and Ms. Diona Ayawan in Shilan. The peer reviewers were Roxanne Tacdoy, Maribel Ciano, Danilo Kudan Jr., Lorena B. Gabriel, and Gabino O. Alfonso. The peer reviewers were also the ones whose farms were inspected. </p> <p> There were 28 findings - 19 major non compliances, 4 minor non compliances, and 5 observations. The deadline for the submission of the Correction and Corrective Actions is on April 11, 2023. According to BAFS, upon submission of objective evidence to the 28 NCs, and acceptable plans for the corrective actions for the same NCs, the OPGSLT is recommended for the issuance of Accreditation Certificate for the scope of Crop Production and Animal Production, subject to verification of effective implementation of corrections and corrective actions. With this, after the Closing Program on the morning of March 30, the OPGSLT convened, initiated, and assisted by the DA-RFO, to initially respond to these findings. After the Closing Program, there was a discussion among the DA-CAR-OAP, Regulatory, and BAFS on the next activities regarding PGS in CAR. The next organization set for accreditation is the IIOFA in Itogon. The ATOPAI in Atok is set for pre-inspection on April 11-14, 2023. The Lamut group in Ifugao is also set for pre-inspection this April. As per BAFS, although the inspection and accreditation are a regulatory function, the OA Program and the ATI should also be behind in support during these activities, so they will know the whole process and can train the farmer groups better, especially the ATI. </p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Performance Assessment and Monitoring	<p>1ST SEMESTER PAF-ESP COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF ACCREDITED PAF-ESPS; RE-VALIDATION OF ESP APPLICANT; FIELD MONITORING ON THE STATUS OF LSAS IN ABRA AND KALINGA; MONITORING TAIWAN INTERN FOR CY 2022, March 29-31, 2023</p> <p>1ST SEMESTER PAF-ESP COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF ACCREDITED PAF-ESPS</p> <p>The 1st Semester ESP Council meeting was conducted at Mt. Carmel Agri-Tourism and Training Center and ROUMEIA Agri Farm Tourism and Training Center to discuss matters and updates concerning extension service providers, assess performance of accredited ESPs and evaluate new applicants for ESP.</p> <p>The SLU EISSI was not evaluated since they requested for extension of submission due to their ongoing Center Audit. The Council agreed with ESP Secretariat to route the SLU EISSIFI accomplishment for CY 2022 for rating of the ESP council. Summary results shall be feedback to them by the Secretariat.</p> <p>The activity was participated by ESP councils which includes: Ms. Cristine D. Abellon representing the Private Sector, Ms. Delinia D. Juan representing the Provincial Local Government Unit, Mr. Constantino T. Sudaypan representing the SUC, Mr. Oliver S. Pe from DA-RFO-CAR representing AFEN, in absence of Ms. Virginia A. Tapat due to some unavoidable circumstances, and Mr. Charlie C. Sagudan as the ATI-CAR Directorate and as ESP Regional Executive Officer. With him was Ms. Cristine B. Esnara, ESP Secretariat.</p> <p>Mt. Carmel Agri Tourism and Training Center was recently accredited ESPs in June 2022. Being the first time to be evaluated, present their accomplishment by Ms. Allaine Banggad, Training Supervisor, aside from the hard copy they submitted. From that, the ESP Council evaluated their accomplishment and performance based on the given tool for ESP performance evaluation. Based on the result of the consolidated Performance Evaluation Tool signed by the ESP councils, Mt. Carmel passed and was rated Excellent for their Performance and Accomplishment Evaluation for the 2nd Semester of CY 2022.</p> <p>RE-VALIDATION OF ESP APPLICANT</p> <p>The Revalidation of ROUMEIA Agri-Tourism and Training Center was chaired by Dr. Sudaypan. Mrs. Imelda Manongyao and her 2 staff assigned in the Training Center attended the revalidation activity. The PAF-ESP Council followed through the compliances of the ROUMEIA on the identified lacking documents and facility last November 2021.</p> <p>After the revalidation, the ESP Council was given time to convene. They decided that ROUMEIA will be endorsed as ESP but subject to the submission of required updated documents on or before April 31, 2023. Documents were Updated FACT sheet, mayor's permit, SEC registration, and others. ESP council to be notified as to the submission of documents. Ms. Esnara will be getting the documents by April 21, 2023.</p> <p>The Council agreed to conduct field validation of the new applicant from Sta. Marcela, Apayao. They tasked the Secretariat to conduct table evaluation and communicate to the ESP applicant. Ms. Esnara to inform the applicant to complete the required document and validation is scheduled by May 2023 onwards.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Monitoring	<p>MONITORING ON THE STATUS OF LSAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 DJ FARM - Maintain fingerlings and tilapia production being sold in the locality, including rice. Most of their produced from vegetables and fruits are for home consumption. 📍 AYUMAN ANGGANI FARM - Able to get fund from Magsasaka Partylist amounting to 20M for the construction of Farmer Training Center. <p>These LSAs were also reminded on the submission of semestral reports, concerns, and issues for action.</p> <p>MONITORING OF FYFIP INTERN GRADUATE</p> <p>Ms. Jewel Lamawin, a graduate of FYFIPT 2022 was monitored. She shared her experiences and learnings as intern in Taiwan and she is now currently enrolled at Kalinga State University taking up agriculture related course.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	MONITORING	LSA MONITORING, March 9-10, 2023 4 LSAs in Luyon, Luna; Poblacion, Pudtol; Sta. Marcela; Aninipan, Flora, Apayao were monitored. Details were:			
		MAQUERRA INTEGRATED FARM	AGUIMANGAN AGRO-ECO TOURISM FARM	VILLA'S FARM	3J FARM
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Luna Apayao Organic Practitioners Association, Mr. Maquera, President, is a recipient of the INSPIRE project of Department of Agriculture worth 5.5M. Building foundation was already established in his farm. - Existing Fruit bearing trees in between forages, Cattle, Goat, Poultry production - Recipient of 2 female buffaloes from PCC - Mr. Maquera stopped rabbit production due to the high mortality rate. - The owner was reminded of the Semestral Reports to be submitted in June 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The farm is personally managed by Ms. Marivic Aguirre with the help of her farm manager and 10 regular staff. - Farm has 3 Hectares Coconut, 5 hectares Pineapple, 130 citrus trees, banana, cacao, and others. - Ms. Aguirre is currently processing its documents and complying with the requirements with TESDA to become the School on Organic Agriculture Program. - The Farm has various products on handicrafts, and processed products - Ms. Aguirre was reminded to submit her liquidation report on the financial assistance provided for the holding area amounting to 150,000, reiterated the submission of semestral reports due this June 2023. -Ms. Aguirre signified her interest in conducting training on high value crops and in need of funds for meals and snacks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Villa's Farm was a certified learning site for Agriculture, certified in 2017 but the certification has already expired in 2022. His intent for renewal was expressed through one of the AEWs in the municipality. - Mr. Villa was re-oriented on the new procedure of LSA certification and the requirements. He was also reminded of LSA responsibilities including the submission of semestral reports as it is one of the bases of renewal of certification and to be considered as active LSA. -He was assisted by the LGU on the documents for his renewal. Submitted were Letter of intent and Farm Profile. Others lacking documents for the renewal will follow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3J Farm established its holding area last July 2022. However, as seen during the visit, the holding area is not yet fully furnished and expected to be finished by April or May. Construction of a comfort room is still to be done. -The measurement of the holding area is 7ft by 5ft. -Mr. Joey Laureta was advised to fast track the completion of the facilities so that they will be in full operation as soon as possible and to submit the project completion report/liquidation report after completion. -The farm has integrated different vegetable crops like squash, pechay and others. But its main crop is corn, approximately 8 hectares. -He was reminded on the submission of semestral reports.
It was discovered while monitoring that the tarpaulins on these LSAs were entirely worn out, hence it was advised to submit them to PR.					



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	MONITORING	ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (OAP) Led by Mr. Edwin C. Dickson from the CDMS Section, five (5) farm partner-owners were monitored:				
		Camat's Integrated Farm	Aquilina Saguilot's Farm (SF)	Ilichan Diversified and Integrated Farm	Cosmic Farm	Lily of the Valley (LOV) Farm
		Poblacion West, Lamut, Ifugao	Nayon, Lamut, Ifugao	Dangtalan, Pasil, Kalinga	Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet	Puguis, La Trinidad, Benguet
		Generally, there were no issues or concerns in between the Farm Partner-Owner and the Scholar to resolve.	Generally, there were no issues or concerns in between the Farm Partner-Owner and the Scholar to resolve.	Generally, there were no issues or concerns in between the Farm Partner-Owner and the Scholar to resolve.	Generally, there were no issues or concerns in between the Farm Partner-Owner and the Scholar to resolve.	Generally, there were no issues or concerns in between the Farm Partner-Owner and the Scholar to resolve.
		FARM FAMILY PROJECT PROPOSAL IMPLEMENTATION, March 28-30, 2023, Ifugao and Kalinga HIGHLIGHTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 15 families benefited from cash assistance as their start-up capital in the amount of Php 30,000 per family. ✓ Monitored families were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nanglihan Family – vermicomposting area 2. Pantoloc Family – vermicomposting area 3. Gud-ay Family – fencing of the backyard/ farm ✓ Monitoring was done with the assistance of the LGU RBO Coordinator. As per monitoring, the project of the 3 farm families was done accordingly with project proposal submitted. 				



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	MONITORING	<p>SWINE MULTIPLIER FARM: SHORT LISTED APPLICANTS AND SWAIB, February 27, 2023</p> <p>SWINE MULTIPLIER FARM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LGU Luna and LGU Aginaldo were both shortlisted as possible beneficiaries for the Swine Multiplier Farm, they were both validated last December 2022 in preparation for the implementation of the project this CY 2023. However upon monitoring, both municipalities were still under the red zone category of the ASF infected municipalities in the region, hence, Mr. Rjay Herrera and Dr. Elsie Banagyo, Livestock Coordinators of Luna, Apayao and Aginaldo, Ifugao were advised to hasten the submission of their documents needed to exit the quarantine category since they were already qualified to avail upgrade from red to pink (buffer) zone since this is one of the main requirements of the program. - Both were advised to submit documents as soon as possible as these are crucial for the office to choose between the two of them for the final recipient of the project. <p>SWAIB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PVET Mt. Province was listed as the recipient of the upgraded AI sa Barangay based on the field validation conducted last December 2022 - It was feedbacked to the proponent that their initial proposal on the repayment scheme that instead of giving free semen, the province will give discount from 1500/ bottle to 400/bottle of all semen produced until the project is fully paid was approved by the NLP Director during the planning conducted in Leyte as long as it will be clearly stipulated in the MOA.
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>TECHNICAL GUIDANCE SESSION ON THE 2023 PAD PPAS, March 7-9, 2023, Bohol Bee Farm, Panglao, Bohol</p> <p>The Partnerships and Accreditation Division (PAD) of the ATI convened the PAS and CDMS Chief of all the Centers to provide updates in the implementation of existing and new extension services and intervention of the ATI. The activity aimed to discuss the different PPAs implemented/spearheaded by PAD as well as the issues and recommendations for the improvement of the implementation, coordination, and feedback mechanism of the various programs and activities of PAD. Activities undertaken were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Updates and Open Forum on Alliance Building and ESP Accreditation Section B. Updates, and Open Forum on Youth and RBO Activities C. Updates and Open Forum on Banner/Commodity Program Activities D. Updates and Open Forum on the Programs of CDMD E. 2023 PAD Schedule <p>Attended by Ms. Jam R. Balingan and Ms, Cristine B. Esnara.</p> <p>Actions Needed: Feedback the discussion during Mancom/Technical/Staff Meetings</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>NATIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS: USE OF OUTCOME-BASED MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) TOOL</p> <p>This five-day activity (March 13-17, 2023) was attended by Maximino R. Aromin Jr. and Ian Jade V. Watawat from ATI-CAR. Highlights of the activity are as follows:</p> <p>The training was intended to capacitate DA-RFO and DA-RTC on the operation of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Tool, as they will serve as the regional trainers on the said MEL tool. MEL is part of the 4DFarms, a digital platform for data-driven decision-making supporting the DA's Fertilization Strategy through cloud-based Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services (RCMAS) and monitoring of rice extension interventions of DA.</p> <p>Participants are expected to: Understand the outcome-based MEL activities of the 4DFarms project; Create user credentials and log-in to RCMAS website; Utilize sampling methodology to determine farmer respondents for the seasonal data collection; Access and download the farmer and farm lot data to enable offline interview; Operate the outcome-based MEL tool online and offline; Handle data management including cleaning, preliminary processing, analysis and reporting; and Develop a plan for regional MEL data collection for end of dry season 2022-23.</p> <p>The training is divided into several parts, utilizing lecture-workshop and field activities as methodologies, and 6 composed of modules. An overview of the MEL Tool is provided by Ms. Castillo of IRRI followed by Presentation of results of MEL Pilot Testing results, User registration and verification, Sampling of Respondents, and Downloading of farmer and farm lot data for offline use presented by Mr. Villanueva, Ms. Ilagan, and Mr. Jardinero respectively. Data management process including data cleaning and analysis is provided by Ms. Villanueva and Mr. Baradas.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>ADVANCE TECHNICAL, REPORT AND POLICY WRITING IN-DEPTH TRAINING WORKSHOP, February 22-24, 2023</p> <p>Excessive globalization and digitalization have led to an increase in the dependency of people on electronic gadgets and on the internet for work, education, and entertainment on a daily basis from basic necessities to luxury items. The definition of everything is constantly changing and was made more urgent and complicated through the recent pandemic. From the ways of marketing to the means and techniques of sale, level of entertainment, and the depth of new discoveries, everything is leading towards more reliability of digital contents and lesser one-to-one human interaction. These circumstances fuel the demand for readily consumable and end user friendly information making technical writing one of the fastest-growing career opportunities.</p> <p>Topics discussed during the three-day training were The Maps of Technical Writing, Overcome Writer's Block, The Technical Writing Product, Proposal Writing, and Policy Writing</p> <p>Attended by Ms. Brandy Banda-ay and Mr. Adrian Chris P. Velasco.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
		<p>Post training expectation: After the training participants are expected to be able to do/perform the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. write effective memos, business letters, and reports with emphasis on how memos and letters can be interpreted in a positive way and how technical documents can be used to call for action; b. write comprehensive policy documents in their organization.
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>TRAINING ON EVENT MANAGEMENT) MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CELEBRATIONS: PLANNING AND MANAGING EVENTS IN THE NEW/NOW NORMAL <i>March 30-31, 2023, AIM Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City</i></p> <p>Events management is a distinct discipline with the Events Industry Council (EIC) as the primary standard setting entity at the international level. In the Philippines, events management is part of the curriculum of hospitality and tourism courses while it is a field of specialization in graduate studies. DOST-PCAARRD started integrating events management in its activities particularly large events such as anniversaries, etc. as early as 2012 and they now have two (2) EIC-certified meeting professionals (CMP). Events management is subdivided into four (4) major categories represented by the acronym MICE which stands for “Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition.”</p> <p>Digital disruption (the changes in events management caused by digital technology development) is one of the major factors that has the most recognizable impact on event management prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Events management that is not able to cope up, adapt, and take advantage of these developments will experience disconnect with the market and the service. With all the constant disruptions in conducting events the emerging definition of the new normal in events management is simply the occurrence of disruptions, hence, disruptions are already part of events management making the “new normal” the “now normal.”</p> <p>Attended by Mr. Adrian Chris P. Velasco.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>DATA PRIVACY AWARENESS SEMINAR, March 24, 2023, online</p> <p>The use of social media now has become the way of life of most of the population hence it is good that all staff be informed of their data privacy rights. The activity contains 4 modules: 1) Data Privacy Act; 2) Privacy Risk and Impact Assessment; 3) Privacy Governance and Structure; 4) Cyber Attacks.</p> <p>Attended by Mr. Bongbong Buli-e</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>TRAINING ON BASIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS, March 20-22, 2023, ATI-CO</p> <p>The training focused on writing basic office communications and business correspondences, as well as preparing presentation materials. It aimed to set several communication protocols to standardize ATI's corporate communication on a national scope. The training was a venue to clearly understand the communication landscape of the ATI and how to handle internal and external communication processes.</p> <p>Attended by Ms. Vicky May Guinayen, Ms. Wyllen Gapad, Ms. Xenna Napat-a, and Ms. Karen Tagkitag</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Salamat-Mabuhay	<p>SALAMAT-MABUHAY: MA'AM VILMA LUMBAS AND MA'AM LETECIA ESPINO, March 3, 2023, ATI-RTC-CAR</p> <p>In line with the CSC's thrust of humanizing the bureaucracy, the Commission in the Resolution No. 98-0474 dated March 5, 1998 enjoins all heads of the departments and agencies to adopt the "<i>Salamat-Paalam</i>" program in recognition of the contributions of the retiring officials and employees in their respective offices.</p> <p>The "<i>Salamat-Paalam</i>" program is a simple but meaningful ceremony held in honor of retirees, whether under optional or compulsory retirement, not later than their scheduled date of retirement. During the activity, the retirees will be given a plaque of appreciation signed by the head of office.</p> <p>With that, this program has been one of the Center's traditions of one way in recognizing dedication and the fruitful and valuable contributions of the staffs. Ms. Vilma L. Lumbas served as a Cashier for 13 years, as a Planning Officer for 2 years, and as a Development Management Officer for 5 years and 3 months. While, Ms. Letecia Espino served as Admin Aide I for 20 years.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Management Committee Meeting	<p>MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, March 14-18, 2023, MIMAROPA</p> <p>The activity was ATI Management Committee Meeting with Center Directors and ATI Central Office Division Chiefs held in ATI-RTC 4-B Coron, Palawan.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading, updating, and approval of previous Minutes of Meeting ○ Updates and Directives of the Directorate ○ Financial Status ○ Updates of the HR ○ ISO Audit Results and Corrective Actions ○ Concerns on various programs ○ Other matters



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	NOA Congress Participation	<p>17th NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONGRESS (NOAC), March 21-23, 2023, University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Cotabato</p> <p>The 17th National Organic Agriculture Congress bannering the theme “Maunlad na Pagsasaka, Garantisado sa Organikong Agrikulturang Sinaliksik” was conducted and hosted by the Department of Agriculture (DA)- National Organic Agriculture Program University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan, Cotabato caters 445 participants from the different regions in the country on March 21-23, 2023. The participants consist of organic agriculture practitioners, government agencies, local government officials, academe and private institutions joined the said congress.</p> <p>One of the highlights of the program was the awarding Certificates of Recognition to the six (6) accredited core PGS groups by BAFS. The Accreditation Certificate and Participatory Organic Certificates were granted to core members of Kayapa PGS Group on the same event.</p> <p>Attended by TCS II Charlie C. Sagudan and Mr. Edwin C. Dicken.</p>

Prepared by:

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M & E/Designated Report Officer
 Date: April 4, 2023

Noted by:

CHARLIE C. SAGUDAN
Center Director/Division Chief
 Date: April 4, 2023