



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAY | 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>RESOURCE PERSON DEVELOPMENT COURSE</p> <p>The Agricultural Training Institute serves as the catalyst, capacity builder and knowledge bank of the Department of Agriculture. As such, the ATI-RTC-CAR continuously develops and enhances the knowledge, skills, and attitude of the LGU Agricultural Extension Workers for better agricultural extension delivery in their localities. The Center developed the Training Program on Enhancing the Extension Delivery of AEWs composed of the following courses: (1) Basic Course on Agricultural Extension Delivery; (2) Community Needs Assessment; (3) Project Proposal Preparation; (4) Resource Person Development Course; and (5) Training Management. The training program started in 2021 and participants are now in course 4 which is on the Resource Person Development Course (RPDC). This course will focus on developing and/or enhancing the capabilities of AEWs to be effective and efficient resource persons in their fields of assignment or programs of involvement.</p> <p>Under the Training Cycle, the resource person development falls under the delivery of training. An effective and efficient resource person greatly affects the successful delivery of training. A resource person needs a variety of training methods and tools for his/her training participants to fully participate and make the most of it. A resource person also undertakes steps from preparation to delivery and even after. It is imperative that these AEWs who are already serving as resource persons and for some who are yet to be the resource persons should be adept on how to be a good if not the best, efficient and effective one.</p> <p>Being a resource person is one of the tasks an AEW will perform in training farmers and fisherfolks. It is important to know and understand also how they (the farmers and fisherfolks) can be managed and what particular training methods and techniques they will need in response to their concerns. The Agricultural Training Institute shall continually perform its role as capacity builder through this training.</p> <p>32 LGU (Extension Workers) coming from different parts of CAR actively participated in this training on May 16-18, 2023, held at ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“To my co-participants, thank you for your comments and suggestions. I will be taking notes on the things I need to improve. And thank you also for the comments such as good speaker, mastery of the topic, and eye-catcher. I will be maintaining my strengths and I will be correcting my areas of improvement.” Emmanuel B. Pagtud, Tabuk City, Kalinga</i></p> <p><i>“Based on the comments and suggestions I noticed that many had noticed my repetitive word which is ‘so’. In my next presentation will lessen such words. Thank you for letting me know of the things I am unaware of, especially on my way of presenting my topics. I will be using this comment for future reference. Also thank you for this time for us to learn.” Phoeby Mendoza, Baguio City</i></p>



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>TRAINING ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FARMING SYSTEM FOR FATHERS OF THE FARM FAMILIES: PHASE I, May 29-31, 2023, Sab-atan Hall, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet</p> <p>Family farming is more than just family-managed farm activities. It speaks of multiple dimensions and how a typical Filipino family engages every member of the household in agriculture. Yet, despite the initiatives of the different institutions offering services to improve the lives of the people behind the food production in the country, family farmers remain the most vulnerable sector in the country. With the growing pressures in the food system, we look to family farming as a model of sustainable food production and as an innovative response to challenges; socially, environmentally, economically, and culturally. Together, we intend to keep our momentum going so that family farming continues to scale up and bring Philippine agriculture to another level from this decade forward. In our path towards development, we will continue to adopt a holistic approach to be able to grow, nourish, and sustain as a nation- “one farm family at a time”. Phases in food production adhering to the value chain cannot be done by one person alone in the family. Every member should hone his/her skills in agri-fishery production for a collaborative effort in helping one another achieve their goal. The training was focused on food production with an input on family values and was conceptualized for the “Fathers” of the farming family.</p> <p>The trainees were able to learn the process of making concoctions, farm practices of visited LSA’s, conceptualized simple farm lay-out, basic swine production, basic free range chicken production and basic organic vegetable crop production. They also expressed their impressions wherein Mr. Sammy Lang-ay from Sto. Tomas, Baguio City said that “Ma’am, to your staff and to all of us here. We are thankful because we are one of the participants who were chosen to attend this seminar. We hope that this program will continue not only this year so that there is a way for us to know more about organic farming. As a father, I know that this is a big help in preparing us to become more equipped. And to my fellow participants, thank you for knowing each other and I know that there will still be time when we will meet again. God Bless to all of us and thank you.” Mr. James Lagahe from Alfonso Lista, Ifugao also said that “On behalf of us Phase 1 Batch 2 of the Family Farming we would like to express our gratitude to the ATI. We are thankful because we are one of the participants who were able to join in this program. We are thankful for the good service from the accommodation down to the food, especially this program that we can participate in. The learnings will not be wasted but we will try our best to apply our learnings so that you will see the fruit of this program. May this not be the last but the start of our “Samahan”. Thank you and God bless us all.” Finally, Mr. Dario Montes from La Trinidad, said that “Thank you very much for inviting us to this training. We will try to apply our learnings here. The friendship formed together with the fellow fathers, I hope that it will always be there, and you are welcome to our farm in Shilan to continue sharing our farm practices.”</p>



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>ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR RBO/4H CLUB/FARM FAMILY BATCH 2</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 of entrepreneurship namely, managerial skills and 'entrepreneurial spirit' which are both needed to start and run a profitable farm business. 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 is 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 (ATI-CAR) believes that enterprise development program is one effective support mechanism to improve productivity and sustainability of agriculture-based products. The 3-day course was 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>The training was implemented at ATI-RTC-CAR on March 29-31, 2023, and was attended by 32 participants who are RBO, 4H and Farm Family from Benguet, Ifugao and Mt. Province with established farms. Three participants expressed their impressions, first Ms. Catrien P. Carpio from La Trinidad, Benguet wherein she said that "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." Second, Ms. Sharon Labrador from Tabuk City said that "Blessed day and this is also a good opportunity for us. We are blessed because this training materialized. When we go home let us take those learnings home. This training was good and there are so many learnings. I know that this will also help us in our organizations and to better our business most importantly to us who have big roles, to us farm owners, officers of different organizations and who have big responsibilities regarding business that is why this training is good. I am thankful to the ATI, to Sir Ed and to the TMT. I also want to thank the caterer because we were full for the whole training. The accommodation was also good. Thank you very much." Lastly, Mr. Joey Laureta from Apayao said that "First of all, I thank God and the whole group of ATI because we have experienced blessings for three days. Right? Because the life of a blessed don't cook, don't wash dishes and we have experienced that for three days. We are very thankful to the Department of Agriculture-ATI because we have learned a lot of lessons through Sir Ed and our fellow participants. We are thankful for the program that you have given us participants which are from different provinces: Abra, Apayao, Kalinga and Benguet. I am thankful because I have again known other fellow farmers. When we go home whatever the learnings that we had here, we should share it to our fellow farmers. Thank you very much and I hope that there will be more trainings that we would be able to join again." For the trainees learning they 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>



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>TRAINING ON INTEGRATED RICE FARMING SYSTEM FOR FARMERS BATCH 2</p> <p>The Rice-Based Integrated Farming System (RBIFS) has been practiced by the indigenous peoples of Kalinga and Ifugao for thousands of years. This traditional farming system involves the simultaneous cultivation of rice paddies, fishponds, vegetable gardens, and livestock production in the same agricultural land. The RBIFS is a sustainable approach to agriculture that maximizes resource efficiency, increases productivity, diversifies income, and promotes climate resilience.</p> <p>In Kalinga and Ifugao, the RBIFS is not only a means of livelihood but also an important aspect of their cultural heritage and identity. This farming system has been passed down from generation to generation and continues to be adapted and improved to meet the changing needs of the communities. The RBIFS is a model of sustainable agriculture that can provide valuable insights and lessons to other farming communities seeking to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>It promotes the sustainable use of resources, with organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and natural pest control methods, which minimize the use of harmful chemicals and preserve the soil's fertility. Moreover, it also increases productivity. By combining different types of crops, livestock, and fish production, the IRVLFs maximizes the productivity of the land. The livestock and fish production provide additional nutrients, while crop residues provide feed for livestock, improving yields and overall productivity.</p> <p>It also provides a diversified income stream for farmers. They can sell their rice, vegetables, livestock, and fish in the local market or directly to consumers, reducing their dependence on a single crop and increasing their resilience to market fluctuations. Further, it is also an inherently climate-resilient farming system. The crop diversity and integration of livestock and fish production provide a buffer against climate extremes, reducing the risks of crop failure and income loss, hence this proposal. This training was completed by 30 farmers of Kalinga on May 16-18, 2023, at Balbalan, Kalinga.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for this training provided me with a lot of knowledge on rice farming. I hope that what we have learned in these four walls of the building will not just end here, but we, with my co-participants should be able to apply it in our own farm. Most of us here have small farms, but we hope that with this training we will be able to increase our yield nor our rice and vegetable production."</i> Alicia Ambalnog, Farmer, Balbalan, Kalinga</p> <p><i>"This 3-day training provided me with knowledge on how to properly manage and produce livestock. This training is quite different as compared to the other training that I have attended since it is just focused on one program. This made me appreciate the value of integrated farming systems since we are not just focused on single cropping which limits our production process. I hope that my co-participants will be able to instill in their minds the following techniques or technologies that were taught and be able to integrate it in their respective farms. And we hope for a follow-up training of this activity."</i> Jhun Gumbay, Rice Farmer, Balbalan, Kalinga</p>



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>TRAINING OF TRAINORS (TOT) ON COFFEE ARABICA PRODUCTION EMPLOYING GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) WITH EMPHASIS ON IPM FOR AEWS OF MT. PROVINCE, May 16-19, 2023, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR</p> <p>Coffee ranks first among non-staple food and is rated as fifth most important agricultural product in the world trade. It is considered as one of the high-value commercial crops in the local and foreign markets. As of 2014, the Philippines produces 25,000 metric tons of coffee and is ranked 110th in terms of output. However, half of the local demand is being imported to meet supply deficits due to low of production. Luckily, Philippines is one of the few countries that produces the four main viable coffee species such as the Arabica, Liberica (Barako), Excelsa and Robusta, of which 90 percent of coffee produced in the country is Robusta. Cordillera is among the few regions in the country where these four varieties are grown. However, the country's coffee supply is not enough, with coffee production supply significantly at a down trend from 72,342 MT DC (36,171 MT GCB) in 2015 to 60,640.95 MT DC (30,320.47 MT GCB) in 2020. Its yield averaged of 0.64 MT/ha 2015 declined to 0.54 MT/ha in 2020. Coffee is one of the top 10 priority commodities in the Cordillera region. The coffee varieties especially Arabica produced in Benguet and Mt. province is considered the best quality due to its aroma. The region is very conducive to coffee growing due to its terrain and weather, as it was ranked as a major coffee producer in the Philippines until the eighties; recently it landed only as sixth coffee producing region surpassed by Bukidnon, Davao, Calabarzon, Western Visayas and Western Mindanao.</p> <p>To revitalize the coffee production in the region, expansion of production areas, increase the productivity from .8kg/tree to 2kg/tree, and most of all improve the coffee bean quality based on the standard must be done. Food safety and quality is one of the most prominent concerns worldwide and foodborne disease outbreaks continue to be a public health challenge. The compliance on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and GMP developed for coffee and other crops is one of the keys to ensure food safety from farm-to-table continuum. GAP aims to protect consumers against unsafe products, gain market acceptance & credibility by producers and exporters. It provides guidance to farmers and other relevant stakeholders through principle-based practices from planting operations up to postharvest handling, which are focused on ensuring food safety, produce quality, workers welfare and environmental management. Technical assistance to coffee producers towards development of cost-competitive, quality driven, supply reliable and product diversified value chain from farming to coffee product manufacturing under sustainable practices in compliance to food safety and environmental requirements is indeed necessary. Thus, this training is conducted for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWS) to provide technical background and information on the standard code of practices for coffee production, GAP implementation, compliance, and certification.</p> <p>The participants were encouraged to apply their learnings from this training, to assist at least one coffee farmer on their compliances to GAP standards as strategy to increase number of GAP certified farms in the region, to strengthen their partnership and linkages to NGAs, DA RFO and Buyers, to organize coffee growers in their municipalities for easy consolidation of products and to make Re-entry plans per Office which will be monitored. They also expressed their impressions wherein Mr. Godfrey Sapdit from Baguio said that "I am one of the new AEWS attending this kind of training on coffee. For those who do not know, there are some coffee plantations in Baguio City. I am also happy that ATI-CAR invited us in this training because next week, we will conduct our own training on coffee production. I appreciate much the topics imparted to us by our RPs so that we can use it in our trainings. I would like to thank ATI-CAR and to my fellow participants for also sharing their knowledge and experiences." Mr. Jayho Ngaya-an From Mayoyao also added that "The current situation of coffee production in Mayoyao is very low, and there are few farmers of coffee. That's why we are trying to have these knowledges and we thank you for that. And as we go back to our municipality, we will find ways to train our farmers. I would like to also thank the training management team for making us feel at home." Also, Mr. Darrel Cunning from Besao said that "I would like to say that I am one of the AEWS who handles multiple banner programs. But despite that I still enjoy going to these kinds of trainings. I would like to thank ATI-CAR for this training because I was imparted with new knowledge in coffee production which I will share also to our fellow farmers at our municipality."</p>



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>TRAINING ON “FEEDNOVATION: A SHOWCASE OF ALTERNATIVE FEEDSTUFF” FOR AEWS OF CAR</p> <p>Poor feeding decreases the productivity of the animal. A vast array of literature on nutrition-reproduction interactions shows that good feeding increases milk production of lactating animals. It also increases the growth rate of meat producing animals, giving more meat. Good nutrition increases reproductive efficiency: higher cyclicity, lower age at first calving, lower inter-calving interval, higher productive life, and higher profitability to farmers (FAO/IAEA, 2002). Feed is financially the single most important element of animal production, irrespective of species and production system. Feed costs can account for up to 70% of the total cost of production of an animal product. High feed costs can wipe out a livestock rearing operation. While commercial swine feeds are designed to meet swine’s nutritional requirements at all stages of its growth, they are relatively expensive. To reduce the cost, swine raisers may consider the use of alternative feeds and raisers opt to produce their own feeds.</p> <p>Feed formulation is one of the basic needs in animal production industries. To meet the animal’s requirement at a particular stage of production, it is very important to formulate the diet efficiently. In formulating a ration, a combination of feed ingredients that adequately meets the nutrient requirement of an animal is the main objective. Aside from being economic, it is also sustainable such that alternative feed ingredients could be produced closer to home and could benefit local producers.</p> <p>It was agreed and learned on the training that finding alternative sources of conventional feed ingredients that are innovative, economically, and environmentally sustainable are recommendable especially that price of feedstuffs is expensive. Additionally, inclusion of alternative feeds in a ration or feeding program can reduce feed costs and stretch feed supplies while meeting nutritional requirements. Alternative feedstuffs can be grown, and others are naturally available. It is a matter of growing, collecting, processing (chopping/shredding, drying, etc.) and mixing the right ration for the animal. The main objective of feed formulation is to utilize the knowledge of nutrient requirements, locally available feed ingredients and digestive capacity of animals for the development of a nutritionally balanced mixture of feed stuff. It was also shared that Black Soldier Fly larvae is an alternative protein source. It can recycle food and animal waste into high-protein animal feeds and fertilizer. Frass from BSF can also restore soil health for sustainable food production.</p> <p>The participants expressed their gratitude on their impression represented by Mr. Florencio B. Alfaro, an MLGU from San Isidro, Abra wherein He said that “This training is very timely, especially for me, who is teaching senior high school students about organic feeds. I can relay or teach them the lessons I gained from this training. Thank you, ATI, for this training.” Secondly, Dr. Divina B. Biton an, MLGU from Pudtol, Apayao also expresses her appreciation, wherein She said that “On behalf of the Apayao group, we express our gratitude to ATI for this training. We were refreshed about the basics of feed formulation. This training is useful. We really must establish our forage area first, as said by Dr. Mark. Thank you very much.” Lastly Ms. Lilia B. Fatongkeg, an MLGU from Bakun, Benguet said that “On behalf of LGU-Bakun, we thank ATI for inviting us to attend this training. When I received the letter and saw that it was about alternative feedstuffs, I grabbed the opportunity. This is useful in our locality. Hopefully, we will be able to share it with them. Commercial feed is expensive, even for transportation, and it is challenging our farmers. The Provincial Office had been distributing UMMB to our office before, but they stopped. Cattle raisers from our area kept asking for UMMB, but we don’t have stock. With our lessons, we will try to prepare mineral blocks for our farmers. Thank you.”</p>



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>PIG FARMING AS AN ENTERPRISE FOR INSPIRE BENEFICIARIES OF CAR (BATCH 2)</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 of entrepreneurship namely, managerial skills and 'entrepreneurial spirit' which are needed to start and run a profitable farm business. 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 is designed to enhance the entrepreneurial competencies/skills of the recipients of the INSPIRE Projects given by the DA_RFO-CAR for farmer associations in the Cordillera Administrative Region in the development and improvement of pig enterprises. The program aims to hasten the repopulation program of the Department of Agriculture on swine that was greatly devastated by the ASF. In addition, now that the farms were established, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI-CAR) believes that enterprise development programs are one effective support mechanism to improve productivity and sustainability of the program. The 3-day course was focused on the discovery and rediscover of the participants' entrepreneurial potential, creativity, values orientation, strategy development, project identification and pre-business plan awareness.</p> <p>The agreement was for the participants to see opportunities in their environment and to have a skill and behavior of Personal entrepreneurial competency to be able to create, develop, manage, and grow a business venture. They also learned the personalities that an entrepreneur must possess like seeking and seizing opportunity, being persistent, persuasive, self-confidence to grow his/her business, committed to work contract, efficiency oriented and demands quality and calculating risks. Also, in planning, an entrepreneur sets his goal, systematic in his/her plan, monitor and seeks information.</p> <p>The participants impressions were, first a message of Ms. Marivic Raganit, President of Bugnay Pacak Farmers Association from Paracelis Mt. Province said that "I'm blessed to be able to attend this training and be able to listen to Sir Ed's lecture whom I admire the most especially for being a spiritual person. I hope for more training/ seminars to enhance our capability as farmers and for us to become more persistent so that if there will be projects from the government, we will be able to fulfill its objective. I pray that all of us will become successful in implementing the project the Department of Agriculture has prepared for us. I also pray that our friendship/ connection will always be there even if we are from different places. That's all and thank you!" Secondly, Ms. Sonia D. Bonyog, member of Villaviciosa Grassroots Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, said that "Good afternoon. During the first day, we wrote "best" as an expectation for this training. It seems that we have already rated this training in advance. "Best" is just one word but it has 4 letters. Letter 'B' stands for 'beautiful because we are all beautiful. Letter 'E' stands for 'empowered. I believe that we are empowered by this training. Letter 'S' means 'sustainability' because the learnings are sustained in my mind even the meals we consumed. Letter 'T' stands for transparency which is very important in an organization/ community. We are very empowered, blessed, and lucky to be able to attend this training. Thank you very much!". Lastly, Ms. Jean B. Pumedca, Auditor of Ankileng Rumang-ayan Organization from Ankileng, Sagada, Mt. Province said that "This is the longest and best enterprise training I attended. I learned a lot from this training, especially from our excellent speaker. Even if I am sleepy, he asks questions or opinions regarding the topic which drives us to stay awake and attentive. In my experience with one of the organizations I joined, only the officers are taking actions for the benefit of the members. Members only wait for the result and that could benefit them. During the dart game, I encouraged my group mates to participate in every round. I hope and pray that we will be able to share with our organization the wisdom we gained in this training. Thank you!"</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>												
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>EXPLORING NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IN OPTIMIZING RICE PRODUCTION - A TECHNICAL BRIEFING</p> <p>Paracelis, Mt. Province is a region that has long been known for its high-quality rice production. However, the area faces several challenges that impact rice productivity, such as declining soil fertility, limited access to quality fertilizers, and inadequate knowledge on effective nutrient management techniques. Effective nutrient management strategies play a critical role in optimizing rice production in Paracelis. These strategies ensure that the essential nutrients are available to the plants in the required amounts, thereby improving crop yield, quality, and resilience to stressors.</p> <p>This technical briefing aims to address the challenges in optimizing rice production in Paracelis by exploring the latest nutrient management techniques. The briefing will provide farmers, extension agents, and other stakeholders with technical knowledge and practical skills in balanced fertilization and other nutrient management strategies that can enhance rice yield and quality. Moreover, the briefing will focus specifically on Paracelis, considering the area's unique soil and climatic conditions, rice varieties, and farming practices. Participants will learn about the latest decision support tools that can aid in nutrient management and improve rice production in the region.</p> <p>Ultimately, this technical briefing seeks to contribute to sustainable rice production in Paracelis, improve farmers' livelihoods, and promote food security in the region. By empowering farmers with knowledge and practical skills in effective nutrient management techniques, this technical briefing can help to address the challenges faced by the rice industry in Paracelis and contribute to its growth and development.</p> <p>On May 9-10, 2023, Mr. Randy Soriano, Training Specialist II heads to Paracelis, Mountain Province to conduct briefing on rice production.</p> <p>This month, 2 batches of technical briefing were undertaken. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="852 977 1410 1122"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Date Conducted</th> <th>Number of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 1</td> <td>May 9</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 2</td> <td>May 10</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td>43</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total of 43 farmers who actively participated in the activity were able to learn the LCC Application, Soil Sampling, and uses of BIO-N.</p>	Batch	Date Conducted	Number of Pax	Batch 1	May 9	21	Batch 2	May 10	22	Total		43
Batch	Date Conducted	Number of Pax												
Batch 1	May 9	21												
Batch 2	May 10	22												
Total		43												



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>LGU-AGRICULTURE OFFICE MANAGERS ASSOC MEETING/ACTIVITY FOR SEM1 and BENCHMARKING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PAFES, Batac, Ilocos, Norte. May 9-11, 2023</p> <p>Being the lead in the implementation of various programs and various interventions under the Departments, LGU plans and programs identified in the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Plans (CPAFEP), there is a need to benchmark to the province leading the PAFES program to be updated on the programs and be mentally prepared for any challenges that may come during the implementation. Thus, this activity was conducted.</p> <p>The activity started through an opening prayer led by Ms. Carmen Fomeg-as, MA of Sagada, Mt. Province, followed by the acknowledgement of participants by Ms. Cristine B. Esnara, Sr. Agriculturist of ATI-RTC-CAR. The activity was participated by the MAs/MAOs/PAs of the Cordillera Administrative Region. Welcome Remarks was delivered by Mr. Ceferino C. Oryan, MA of Barlig, Mt. Province and the President of their association. He remembered from last year's meeting that they agreed to conduct their 1st semester meeting and benchmarking of PAFES in Batac, Ilocos Norte as they were the first to launch and implement the PAFES program. Mr. Oryan said that it is an opportunity for them as LGU Managers to learn and understand deeply the PAFES Program. He knows that all of them have been multitasking in their own municipalities but being a manager as they were called, they must manage all those tasks. As PAFES was already launched in their own provinces, they can say that they are ready to implement additional approaches in extending delivery service.</p> <p>Inspirational Message was delivered by Dr. Santiago R. Obien, who is now the National Rice Program Adviser, with an Office located at PhilRice Batac, Ilocos Norte. He encouraged everyone to perform their tasks with passion and love and choose knowledgeable people to help them. He also encouraged the Agriculture Managers to keep themselves productive and should not allow themselves to degenerate but make themselves presentable always. The Overview of the activity was presented by Ms. Cristine B. Esnara.</p> <p>Activities undertaken were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of PAFES Overview and PAFES in CAR Updates 2. Orientation on Magna Carta for AEWs 3. Presentation of EAsY Agri (Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture) 4. Environment Scanning to LSAs in the North, and 5. INAFES Benchmarking



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>EASY Agri Scholarship Review and Assessment</p> <p>The Center is currently implementing the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EASY Agri) Scholarship Program for the youth. The first batch started in 2020 with 15 scholars. However, to date only 13 remained since some of them were not able to comply with the requirements set by the program. Some of them have started their research studies already and some will be undertaking their On-the-Job Trainings during their Midyear Class.</p> <p>The second batch rolled out in 2022 with 14 scholars. They are now in their 2nd Semester still in Year 1 and all are doing good in their school requirements. The scholars are regularly monitored in their monthly activities and classes to keep them on track and respond to their concerns. To address concerns in the implementation of the Scholarship Program and discuss future activities for the scholars, there is a need to conduct this review and assessment.</p> <p>Said activity was completed by 25 participants held on May 25-26, 2023.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“Thank you for this opportunity for us to make connections and know other scholars. Also, I am thankful for the things discussed by Ma’am Jam Balingan and Ma’am Wyllen Gapad, they clarified our concerns related to our scholarship program. With this activity, we can now make and consolidate our monthly reports easier. I also appreciate the research proposal presentation and the discussion on the 4H Club.”</i> Jayson Acantilado, EASY Agri Scholar, Batch 1, Flora Apayao</p> <p><i>“First of all, I would like to thank ATI for inviting us to this activity. Thank you for letting us know more about the opportunities that the Department of Agriculture that we can avail of. We hope that by this activity we can be more open to our co-scholars and that we will be able to have an organized monthly report.”</i> Mark Christopher Jimenez, EASY Agri Scholar, Batch 2, Pidigan Abra</p> <p>PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION COURSE (PDOC) FOR FILIPINO YOUNG FARMERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN TAIWAN (FYFIPT) - BATCH 3</p> <p>The young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT) is a partnership between the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECOP). Through the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) it aims to develop deserving Filipino young farmers to become empowered farmer leaders and agricultural entrepreneur.</p> <p>After the screening process, fifty (50) young farmers are accepted as interns for the internship program with three (3) waitlisted interns in case there is a drop-out due to valid reason. Among the fifty (50) young farmers are four (4) young farmers from CAR who will be undergoing the Pre-Departure Course (PDOC) from May 5 to July 21, 2023.</p> <p>As part of the Pre-Departure Orientation Course (PDOC), the ATI Regional Training Centers are requested to facilitate the participation of the trainees in various agricultural-related training such as farm mechanization, high-value crop production on fruits and vegetable, and livestock.</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)	Learning Site for Agriculture	<p>This month, two (2) LSAs were enhanced/maintained:</p> <p>Under OA Program Nabe Organic Farm</p> <p>Under RCEF Program Sam Reign Atluna Integrated Farm</p> <hr/> <p>LSA VALIDATION AND FARM FAMILY MONITORING</p> <p>To team conducted the validation of LSA applicants and monitored the recipients/applicants for the PAP4FF and LSA. The following applicants/ recipients were validated/monitored:</p> <p>✚ PAP4FF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 (monitored) Marciano Badao of Tamac, Villaviciosa – validated through phone call as their place is far and inaccessible to 4-wheel vehicle 📍 (monitored) Beverly Gail Montilla (PAP4FF) of Lagayan Abra 📍 (validated) Peterson M. Antonio of Poblacion, Villaviciosa, Abra <p>✚ LSA Validated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Alex L. Valera of Salsalamagi, Cosili West, Bangued, Abra owner of El Camino Verde Farm View 📍 Asuncion D. Plurad of San Antonio, Abra (livestock – cattle, chicken, swine, and white corn) 📍 Elizabeth Antonio of RIC Namnama in Poblacion, Bangued Abra. <p>LGU Lagayan, proposed LSA Site (with MA Rowena Tadeo)</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)	Learning Site for Agriculture	<p>LSA VISITS AND ASSESSMENT, VLSA PIDIGAN MONITORING, AND MS VISITS IN ABRA <i>May 4-5, 2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 <i>VLSA at Pidigan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided some forms for them to fill out for submission to DA-ATI-CAR as part of the M&E component of the project. 📍 <i>Sevilleja Farm</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LSA owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sevilleja at Danglas - The certification from ATI as LSA already expired, thus the visit - The couple are still interested to serve as LSA, required forms were provided for them to fill out and for submission 📍 <i>MS Trongco of DJ Farm</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint monitoring conducted by ATI and CorCAARRD secretariat - Currently undertaking TM in preparation for his application as Farm School. Joined the Kress Philippines Awards on People's Choice Special Award and Kapitan Kress Bayaning Mangigisda- Ongoing; Continuous farming and fishery-related activities - ATI CAR provided some updates on the upcoming LSA and MS activities. Certificate of Appointment as MS was awarded to him. <p>Ms. Epie and Mr. Guerrero went to Dolores to visit the Aquitola Farm. Assessment of the LSA applicant (Rice)- Mr. Delfin Alagao in Tayum followed, which is set for endorsement provided that the farm owner will all allow since Mr. Alagao is a tenant.</p>
Expanding Partnerships Along the Value Chain Through Advisory Services (Advise)		<p><i>No advisory services provided for this month</i></p>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100 corporate materials were reproduced and disseminated ✓ 1 success story published ✓ 3 success stories documented ✓ 40 webpages uploaded with 81,391 individuals reached



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	SOA SRA Preparation and Meeting	<p>SOA SRA 1ST PREPARATORY MEETING, PAFES ABRA PMG MEETING</p> <p>On May 24-26, 2023, Mr. Maximino R. Aromin, Jr., Mr. Daniel Dagiwa, and Mr. Raul Leung travelled to Abra to prepare for the conduct of SOA-SRA in June 2023. The highlights were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ SOA-SRA Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The following agenda were tackled: (1) Identification of areas of improvement; (2) Review of the TOR & Some reminders; (3) Agree on the SOA schedule; (4) Target setting/commitment of targets; (5) Signing of COS; (6) Distribution of supplies (enrolment forms and pre-test materials). ✓ Emphasized that forms should be completely filled-out and that their T-shirt sizes should already be known during the enrolment period to facilitate procurement process. ✓ Initially, there were 850/1,000 committed enrollees from the 20 municipalities present during the meeting. ✓ As agreed, ATI-RTC-CAR will provide radio sets at the ratio of 1 radio: 8 pax. ✓ Tentative launching would be on June 22, 2023 ✓ Next meeting will be on June 15 to retrieve directories and forms and distribute supplies. ✦ PAFES ABRA PMG Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It was agreed that the PLGU will accommodate/use all the 1.5M that was allotted to them. P1M will be allotted to high-level managerial trainings and P500,000.00 for high-level TOT on Livestock training (swine and cattle to be outsourced to ITCPH and NDA/PCC). ✓ Traveling expenses will be shouldered by participants so that the funds can be maximized. ✓ Emphasized that only regular staff will be permitted to join the trainings (no J.O.s/C.O.S). ✓ As such, there is a need to revise their Project Proposals to include the agreed trainings. Revision will be done by Cris Gulloy and PVet to be submitted on June 2, 2023. ✓ PLGU asked the help of ATI-RTC-CAR in identifying high-level training providers (contact person in AIM, DAP, ITCPH, NDA etc.) ✓ It was also emphasized that they should already start planning for 2024 activities that will complement their 2023 trainings. ✓ The designated PAFES Center is tentatively the training hall in between OPAG and PVET office. <p>Furthermore, the PMG is encouraged to administer TNA as basis for the trainings to be conducted.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p>PARTICIPATION TO 1ST QTR. REGIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL (RRDCC) MEETING</p> <p>On May 5, 2023, Ms. Cristine Esnara, ATI-RTC-CAR, OIC TCS I and Ms. Jaila Sagpa-ey, ATI-RTC-CAR Information Officer II, attended the 1st quarter RRDCC meeting at ASIST Lagangilang where 15 Consortium Member Institution (CMI) attended. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Items for information – DOST PCAARRD Updates; Consortium Updates – Aduyon Report and 2023 TNA; Activity process flow of research proposal funding and endorsement of journal articles for DOST-PCAARRD funding ➤ Items for adoption and approval – Consortium 2023 operational plan, Manual of operations for the Consortium and RDE Symposium Manual; and Cluster Updates: 2023 AIHR Schedules, Regional Symposium 2023 and RAISE Project; and Policy Guidelines for the procurement of load cards all which approved by the RRDCC. <p>Date and venue of the next meeting: August or September to be hosted by IFSU</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Served as Resource Person and Validation	<p>SERVED AS RESOURCE PERSON SUPPORTIVE TO THE CONDUCT OF SEASON-LONG TRAINING OH HYBRID SEED PRODUCTION</p> <p>On May 5, 2023, Mr. Randy T. Soriano, ATI-RTC-CAR Training Specialist II served as resourced person on the topic on “Transformational Leadership” and Values Orientation at Bulbulala Covered Court, La Paz, Abra. He then headed to Tayum, Abra to validate Mr. Delfin Oscar Alagao as LSA applicant on Rice. Findings revealed that Mr. Alagao is qualified, but the issue of land ownership is seen as a potential problem in the future. The decision whether to approve the application will be subjected upon the recommendation of PAS Head.</p> <p>Mr. Soriano also delivered the enhancement or establishment cheque of Mr. Allaine Barubar (newly certified LSA in Bangued, Abra) as assistance on the approved development proposal and facilitated the delivery and issuance of the ICT equipment awarded to MA Maritess Balling of Bangued, Abra for the RCM use.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	National Updating and Planning Workshop	<p>RICE CROP MANAGER ADVISORY SERVICE NATIONAL UPDATING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP</p> <p>On May 8-11, 2023, Ms. Resley Ann G. Sumedca, ATI-RTC-CAR Training Specialist II, attended the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service National Updating and Planning Workshop in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.</p> <p>Activities undertaken were: (1) Presentation of RCMAS dashboard accomplishment for 2023; (2) Presentation of results of the pilot testing of 4DFarms; (3) Presentation of updates in application and databases, and technical contents; (4) Presentation of plans and directions for 2024; (5) Consultative workshop on the analysis of underutilized RCMAS dataset to support food–land–water transformation; (6) Looking back to the roles of implementing agencies in the implementation and sustainability of RCMAS.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Pre-inspection	<p>PRE-INSPECTION OF CORE PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) GROUPS IN ATOK, BENGUET AND LAMUT, IFUGAO</p> <p>In relation to the accreditation of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups as Organic Certifying Body, pre-inspection activities are conducted by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) together with the DA-RFO and ATI. This is to assess and verify the level of compliance of the core PGS group farmer-members with the applicable current PNS related to organic agriculture and accreditation requirements. It also aims to: (1) assess farm operations/production practices of the farmer-members; (2) review documented information of the farmer-members; and (3) determine the necessary actions to comply with the non-compliances (if any) in preparation for the actual certification of BAFS.</p> <p>Pre-inspection also serves as the technical assistance of the different agencies involved in the PGS accreditation. The pre-inspection procedure follows the actual inspection protocol, which starts with an opening meeting, followed by the collection and verification of information through an interview, a review of records, a farm inspection, and feedback, then the inspection team's generation of inspection findings, and lastly, a closing meeting wherein findings are discussed with the farmer-member.</p> <p>In relation to this, two inspection activities were done in CAR for the Atok Organic Practitioners Association, Inc. (AtOPAI) and Lamut Organic Practitioners Cooperative (LoPraCo) on April 11–13, 2023, and on May 8–11, respectively.</p> <p>Common findings/recommendations for the 7 farmer-members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was no official attestation or certification presented that farms were not exposed to prohibited substances. ○ There is a need to subject their water sources to laboratory analysis to ensure that water used in the production is uncontaminated. ○ The following records were found to be missing or incomplete thus, traceability of crop and animal production cannot be fully established: seed source; protocol for washing treated seeds; protocol for cleaning of tools and equipment used for production; Organic Management Plan; Fertilization Plan; Pest, Disease, and Weed Management Plan; Production code; Maps and Layout; Source to Production to harvest to Sales Records; Production Plan; Receipts of Outsourced raw Materials, etc) ○ There was no shelter or cover for composting sites. ○ Animal Husbandry Practices (Feeding, Biosecurity, Animal Husbandry Management; Feed Formulation; Animal Health, Manure Management)



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES	<p>TURN-OVER OF THE 2023 PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXTENSION SYSTEM</p> <p>📍 MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, May 10-11</p> <p>Dr. Rodelio B. Bagawi, Provincial Veterinarian and MPAFEC Center-in-Charge welcome the attendees of the turn-over activity. After the opening remarks Mr. Maximino Aromin Jr., ATI-RTC-CAR PAFES Focal Person, presented the overview of the activity, highlighting the achievements of CAR for the 2022 PAFES implementation. Furthermore, he stated the recognition of Mountain Province for the being the 1st province to have a Center in the region. In his message, DA-RFO-CAR RED Cameron P. Odsey mentioned that the meeting place is very symbolic since it is like “dap-ay” or “ato” where it is an institution in the past where the kids learn from the stories of the elders about the stories of the village. He challenged the said province that from the fund allocation received, decide in this “ato” on how to implement it.</p> <p>The PAFES fund allocation for Mt. Province was then awarded by the CAR RPMO headed by Dr. Cameron P. Odsey with the PAFES Secretariats Lois June B. Fermin, Mr. Maximino R. Aromin Jr. to Vice Governor Hon. Francis O. Tauli, SP Chair on Agriculture Hon. Ezra Gomez, and the PMG group Dr. Rodelio B. Bagawi, Engr. Daniel K. Likigan and Ms. Mary Jane S. Tumapang.</p> <p>📍 BENGUET, May 15</p> <p>On May 15, 2023, the ATI-RTC-CAR team and representatives from DA-RFO-CAR and BFAR-CAR headed to the Provincial Capitol in Poblacion, La Trinidad, Benguet for the check-turnover ceremony.</p> <p>ATI-RTC-CAR TCD Mr. Charlie C. Sagudan introduced the PAFES where he highlighted the achievements of CAR for its performance in leading the PAFES implementation for Calendar Year 2023. In support to the implementation of the interventions identified in the Benguet CPAFEP, the CAR PAFES RPMO hereby officially transfers the 2023 PAFES fund for the province of Benguet to Governor Hon. Melchor D. Diclas together with the Sangunian Panlalagiuwan Members and concerned PLGU department heads and personnel.</p> <p>📍 APAYAO, May 17-18</p> <p>The ATI-RTC-CAR team together with representatives from DA-RFO-CAR and BFAR- CAR travelled to Calanasan, Apayao on May 17-18, 2023, for the turnover of the check. The PAFES fund check with the amount of P1,523,000.00 was received by the LGU of Apayao.</p> <p><i>“This PAFES is an approach, or a system introduced by Rodrigo Duterte because of the local government code of 1991, where it has the list of the National Government Functions that will be devolved to the LGUs. However, because of financial limitations the devolution of functions was not implemented. So, the LGUs are still dependent on the programs from the National Government. I know you’ve heard about the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling, where Gov. Mandanas questioned the small share of the LGUs from the National Fund. So, the supreme</i></p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
		<p> <i>court reviewed the case filed by Mandanas and it was found out that the LGUs are receiving small amount of fund because the basis on the computation from the share was the collection of the National Government from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). So, the supreme court decided to include all the sources of the National funds subjected to the corresponding percentage according to the law. Because of that, the funds of LGUs increased and the supreme court suggested to fully implement the full devolution in 2020. However, based on the study of Department of Budget and Management (DBM) there are at least 400 MLGUs or LGUs that are not ready to implement the devolved functions from the NGAs as stated in the local government code. So, President Marcos issued an executive order to extend the full devolution of functions from 2020 to 2027 for the BBM to review if what are those National Functions to retain and what functions of the national government to be devolved to the LGUs. With that the Department of Agriculture decided the Province-led Agriculture and Fishery Extension System (PAFES) to prepare the LGUs for the expected full devolution on 2027. What governor said that we will redirect our funds, I think this is now the time to initiate lodging the development of the Agricultural sector of the province through the PAFES and we are just there to support on what resources the LGUs are lacking off.” TD Daguio delivered his message on the principles behind PAFES.</i> </p> <p> 📍 IFUGAO, May 23 </p> <p> To officially award the PAFES Fund allotted to PLGU-Ifugao, Mr. Charlie Sagudan, Training Center Director together with Mr. Maximino Aromin Jr., and Mr. Raul Leung travelled to Lagawe, Ifugao on May 23, 2023. The turnover was very simple, prior to the turnover, TCD Charlie Sagudan gave a brief overview of the PAFES. </p> <p> The following were present during the turnover: Mr. James Damoyan, Executive Assistant II, who received the check on behalf of governor; Engr. Carmelita Buyuccan, PPDC, PLGU Ifugao; Ms. Martha Balangi, OIC Provincial Treasurer; Mr. Domingo Mariano, Provincial Agriculturist; Mr. Ferdinand Dulunuan, OPVet rep; Rochelle Dulunuan and Steve Baccay. </p> <p> Madam Vergie Tapat, Mae Kio-isen, Gladys Aligo and APCO Charlemagne of DA-RFO-CAR were also present together with Ms. Lois Fermin and their Provincial Staff and Center Director Charlie Sagudan and Maximino Aromin Jr. from ATI-RTC-CAR. </p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	MANCOM MEETING	<p>2ND MANCOM MEETING IN ZAMBOANGA CITY</p> <p>On May 10-12, 2023, ATI-RTC-CAR Center Director Charlie C. Sagudan attended the 2nd ATI management committee meeting held in Zamboanga City. The activity was attended by ATI Directorate and Center Directors of the different regions of the country and the Division Chiefs of ATI Central Office. The following were the agenda for the meeting: reading the approval of the previous minutes of meeting; updates from the previous minutes of meeting and action points; Updates and directives of the directorate; financial status (agency as well as Center level); updates on human resources concerns; concerns on various programs; and other matters.</p> <p>Actions Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide highlights of meeting during staff meeting • Intensify obligations this first semester to meet target obligations • Incoming calendared activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National ATI Mid year review (July 17-21, 2023, Laoag, Ilocos, Norte) ○ July 11-14, 2023 National PAFES national assessment ○ Three year development review through PPD (June 19-23, 2023) ○ Center performance review/audit (June to November 2023) ○ ATI Mancom August 8 to 10, ATI Region 5 ○ ATI Mancom October 10-12, 2023 ATI-Region 8 ○ December 5-7, CFIDP performance review ATI-Region 10 ○ Easy Agri Scholars timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 15, 2023 (Submission of shortlisted applicants) ▪ July 17-21, 2023 Verification of applicants, submission of final list



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>												
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	BAC	<p>BAC-ON SITE/FIELD POST QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS RE: SWAIB (LIVESTOCK)</p> <p>On May 12, 2023, the ATI-RTC-CAR team headed to Bad-ayan, Buguias, Benguet and Bauko, Mtn. Province to conduct the site or field post qualification of bidders re: SWAIB (livestock). Following findings are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="717 570 2344 963"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="717 570 1076 613">Bidder's name</th> <th data-bbox="1076 570 1569 613">Site visited</th> <th data-bbox="1569 570 2344 613">Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="717 613 1076 756">1. Two M Construction and Engineering Services</td> <td data-bbox="1076 613 1569 756">Bad-ayan Integrated School, Bad-ayan, Buguias, Benguet</td> <td data-bbox="1569 613 2344 756"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completed project re: repair and rehabilitation of 13 classrooms and improvement of school's facilities under Dep-ed-Benguet ➤ Another visit to their office for the validation of documents submitted is set on Monday, May 14 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="717 756 1076 873">2. Longboan Construction</td> <td data-bbox="1076 756 1569 873">Sub office site at Abatan, Bauko, Mtn. province Site visit at Guinzadan, Bauko</td> <td data-bbox="1569 756 2344 873">➤ Validated the documents submitted in the bidding documents vis-a-vis the original copies; site visit to Guinzadan to validate the existence of the identified/declared equipment (ei. dump truck)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="717 873 1076 963">3. Tawid Builders Corporation</td> <td data-bbox="1076 873 1569 963">Office at Otucan Sur, Bauko, Mtn. Province</td> <td data-bbox="1569 873 2344 963">➤ Validated the documents submitted in the bidding documents vis-a-vis the original copies</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Bidder's name	Site visited	Remarks	1. Two M Construction and Engineering Services	Bad-ayan Integrated School, Bad-ayan, Buguias, Benguet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completed project re: repair and rehabilitation of 13 classrooms and improvement of school's facilities under Dep-ed-Benguet ➤ Another visit to their office for the validation of documents submitted is set on Monday, May 14 	2. Longboan Construction	Sub office site at Abatan, Bauko, Mtn. province Site visit at Guinzadan, Bauko	➤ Validated the documents submitted in the bidding documents vis-a-vis the original copies; site visit to Guinzadan to validate the existence of the identified/declared equipment (ei. dump truck)	3. Tawid Builders Corporation	Office at Otucan Sur, Bauko, Mtn. Province	➤ Validated the documents submitted in the bidding documents vis-a-vis the original copies
Bidder's name	Site visited	Remarks												
1. Two M Construction and Engineering Services	Bad-ayan Integrated School, Bad-ayan, Buguias, Benguet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completed project re: repair and rehabilitation of 13 classrooms and improvement of school's facilities under Dep-ed-Benguet ➤ Another visit to their office for the validation of documents submitted is set on Monday, May 14 												
2. Longboan Construction	Sub office site at Abatan, Bauko, Mtn. province Site visit at Guinzadan, Bauko	➤ Validated the documents submitted in the bidding documents vis-a-vis the original copies; site visit to Guinzadan to validate the existence of the identified/declared equipment (ei. dump truck)												
3. Tawid Builders Corporation	Office at Otucan Sur, Bauko, Mtn. Province	➤ Validated the documents submitted in the bidding documents vis-a-vis the original copies												



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	MONITORING	<p>CBF MAFF PROJECT</p> <p>Mr. Romualdo Bantag, Technical Support Staff went to Balili, Mankayan, Benguet on May 16-18, 2023, to monitor the 2nd cycle of potato production under the CBF MAFF Project, broccoli seedlings, and potato experiments.</p> <p>Findings were as follows:</p> <p>Mr. Basilio Ngaseo Jr.'s potato crops were in the vegetative stage, 30 days after planting, followed by Ms. Lilian Tabao-ikan of Raniag Farmers Association's crop, 26 days after planting, and Mr. Eddie Buyagan's crop is just starting to emerge for he just planted on May 5, 2023. Because they were unable to plant on the same day, their crop condition is different, but because the harvest is planned for August 2023, this is not a concern.</p> <p>Furthermore, it was found out that in the potato storability experiment using a hot water treatment, treatment 3 is recommended in terms of longer storage as the tubers had just started to sprout. However, if breaking dormancy, treatment 1 is recommended in which tubers from treatment 1 produce longer sprouts that are good for planting.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the broccoli seeds provided by the Japanese experts during their visit were sown but they were not transplanted immediately, and the farmer cooperators failed to maintain regular irrigation of the seedlings, causing the seedlings to die. Thus, the farmer cooperators re-sowed the broccoli seeds of Avenger and Legacy will be transplanted in June 2023.</p> <p>The soil testing using STK analysis will be performed prior to transplanting. The pH of the soil and the level of N-P-K elements will be determined for fertilizer recommendations. During the monitoring, we collected soil samples from the farms of the two farmer cooperators namely: Mr. Chester Ngaseo of Blestdam Farmers Association and Haynalyn O-oc of Raniag Farmers Association. The soil samples were brought to the Municipal Agriculturist's office for analysis.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p>TO ATTEND REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) MEETING IN ASIPULO, IFUGAO</p> <p>In support to training and extension activities for CY 2023, a PAFES fund amounting to Php 1.5 million was awarded to PLGU Ifugao. The turnover is headed by Dr. Mariano, the PDCC, the Provet, and Hon. James Damoyan, Executive Assistant of the Governor to Agricultural affairs. The meeting was organized by DSWD CAR, Chair of the RAC in the region and attended by different agencies namely DA-RFO, DA-ATI, DENR, DILG, DOLE, DOST, NCIP, BFAR, DepEd, DSWD, PhilHealth, BFP, PNP, TESDA, DPWH, SPUP, LGU-Asipulo, and LGU-Ifugao.</p> <p>The agencies were tasked to present their programs to LGU-Asipulo in support to various development needs in the municipality and as a convergence area for the RAC in the region. It also enables the RAC to turn over various livelihood, infra projects under the sustainable livelihood program, KALAHI CIDS to BLGUs. Graduates of the 4Ps program were likewise recognized and gave their testimonies to the RAC. The activity was attended by Mr. Charlie Sagudan, ATI-RTC-CAR Center Director from May 23-26, 2023, at Asipulo, Ifugao.</p>
	Trainings Attended by Staff	<p>eLEARNING UPDATING AND MIGRATION WORKSHOP</p> <p>The activity was called by Central Office through a special order #106 s. Of 2023 to update and migrate the eLearning Courses from CourseLab and earlier version of Articulate StoryLine to Articulate StoryLine 360 and Articulate Rise 360.</p> <p>Articulate StoryLine 360 is an updated version of Articulate StoryLine which is perfect for the customization of slides while Articulate Rise 360 uses blocks. Both are powerful eLearning authoring tools that enable developers and instructional designers to create custom, interactive courses. Articulate Rise 360 is a web-based eLearning course builder that allows instructional designers to develop online courses for any device. The Articulate Rise 360 features can be utilized in a web browser with no need to download software while Articulate StoryLine 360 needs to be installed before you can use it.</p> <p>The existing open-source system that ATI is currently using for the eLearning platform can no longer handle multiple queries and tasks which resulted in various glitches such as broken images, non-recording of scores, and activities of online learners, inaccessibility of the course contents, and non-responsive to smartphone users are the reason why there is a need to migrate the courses to a new and responsive eLearning platform such as the Articulate StoryLine 360 and Articulate Rise 360.</p> <p>Each participant has one eLearning Course to migrate. The ATI-RTC-CAR team submitted the Basic Beekeeping and Advanced Beekeeping Courses as their eLearning courses to work on. The said activity was completed by Mr. Bonbong Buli-e, ATI-RTC-CAR Media Production Specialist II and Mr. Adrian Chris P. Velasco, ATI-RTC-CAR IO II on May 22-26, 2023, at Sunlight Guest Hotel, Coron, Palawan.</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 OF TRAINERS ON CERTIFIED PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) GROUP TOWARDS ACCREDITATION AS ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES (OCB)</p> <p>The training aims to increase and enhance the knowledge and skills of DA-ATI, BAFS, and DA-RFO staff in assisting the PGS Groups towards accreditation as Organic Certifying Bodies (OCB). 33 staff from the different ATI-Regional Training Centers and staff from BAFS and DA-Regional Field Offices attended the training. The training covered three (3) modules namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal Standards and Manual of Operations, 2. Accreditation of PGS Groups as OCB, and 3. Peer Review and Certification Protocols. <p>Responsibilities of ATI:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ATI-RTC-CAR to allot funds for the 3 batches of Training for Certified PGS towards accreditation based on revised/recalibrated WFP. 2. Support assigned/ designated staff in assisting certified Core PGS Groups towards accreditation as OCB. Also, attend the pre-inspection of pre-assessment of PGS group applicants. 3. ATI-RTC-CAR to assist ATI-CO in conducting or co-implementing the Capability Building for Regional Pre-Assessment Team (RPAT) on July 3-7, 2023 at Sagada Mt. Province. <p>Attended by Mr. Edwin C. Dickson, OA Focal Person, on May 22-26, 2026 at Binahon Agro-Forestry Farm, Lantapan, Bukidnon.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
	Institutional Representation Report	<p>BENGUET PROVINCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING</p> <p>Agenda of the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BPAFES: A walkthrough and status 2. BCAFES Proposed Re-organizational Structure 3. Presentation of Benguet target for CY 2023 and proposals for CY 2024-2026 4. Orientation on the ATI registered forms 5. Other matters <p>In attendance during the meeting were staffs from Provincial Agriculture Office (PAgO) headed by Acting Provincial Agriculturist Delinia D. Juan, Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (PVET), DA-RFO-CAR, and ATI-RTC-CAR.</p> <p>Acting Provincial Agriculturist Delinia D. Juan provided a walkthrough and status of PAFES implementation in Benguet. The meeting also discussed the BCAFES Proposed Re-organizational Structure. As well, the targets for CY 2023 and proposals for CY 2024-2026 was also presented.</p> <p>To ensure the smooth implementation of the PAFES-related activities, ATI-CO provided a Guidelines on the Management and Implementation of the Budget for PAFES. The Guideline states that PLGUs shall utilize the ISO registered forms for the conduct of training and other related activities. Hence, an orientation was undertaken to present the ATI ISO forms.</p> <p>INSTITUTE COMMITMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ATI-ISO forms both for training and non-training will be uploaded to the PAFES google drive. ✓ The Institute will be conducting an on-the-spot field monitoring to track the actual implementation and accomplishment of targets. <p>Activity was undertaken on May 12, 2023 attended by Ms. Brandy L. Banda-ay, ATI-RTC-CAR PEO I.</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 Representation Report	<p>2ND QUARTER MEETING OF THE RDC SECTORAL COMMITTEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ECON SECOM)</p> <p>The RDC Meeting was sponsored by NEDA CAR and was presided by Mr. Rafael Gayaso, from NORLU-CEDEC. The activity was attended by Gov. James Edduba of Kalinga, and Directors and Representatives from different agencies such as NEDA, DOT, DA, DOST, PIA, BSP-NL, CDA, MGB CAR, DSWD, CorCAARD, PSR, PAS, ATI CAR and other.</p> <p>Ms. Cristine Esnara, OIC Training Center Superintendent I, representative from ATI CAR headed to NEDA RDC HALL, Leonard Road, Baguio City on May 11, 2023, to attend the said meeting.</p> <p>Agreements/Comments of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four winners on “Youth in Agri-preneurship Program (YAP) of ATI CAR comes from region CAR instead of Young Farmers Challenge (YFC), a program of DA RFO CAR. • New Business: RDIP prioritized PPA of Economic Sector (Chapters 6.1, 7, 8, 9, 11) – moved for endorsement and was seconded by the members • Agencies has to strengthen its monitoring activities to avoid delayed projects • Draft RDR (Chapter 9) – approved for endorsement • Tourism Village Award – intended for facility improvements, capability building, recreational activities, etc. that would enhance their tourism value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winners: 1st Hapao Baang Nangalan Clustered Tourism 2nd Pidlisan Village 3rd Naneng Village of Tabuk City • Cordillera Weaving Industry: Designs to be patented to IPR for property rights; Provide assistance to cocoon from mulberry industry as source of raw materials; Appropriate term for custom/attire • Include LGUs since they also have various innovations, not only agencies and universities • Philippine Coffee Quality Competition and Philippine Expo: to be conducted on June 2-4, 2023, at the World Trade Center, Pasay City with a theme “Celebrating Philippine Coffee: Brewing the Future” • Consider the OTOP of municipalities and the excess vegetables in the Cordillera. The RDC agreed for endorsement, subject for the adoption of recommendations/suggestions of the members. • Agricultural Sub Sectoral Committee – presented the updated projects in Agriculture for endorsement of the RDC • 80% decline in buying gold in the region compared to other regions. RDC to encourage LGUs to regulate the black market within their coverage or if not LGU to buy. <p>Philippine Standard Industrial Classification: PSA is aiming to partner with LGUs for the adoption of the said apps and system for database management</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Learning and Development	<p>1ST SEMESTER STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR CY 2023 HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACTIVITY (PROCESSING OF HEALTHY FOODS AND SPORT ACTIVITY)</p> <p>Under CSC Resolution No. 1901265 or also known as the “Guidelines on the Development of Mental Health Program (MHP) in the Public Sector” promulgated on the 23rd of October 2019, and circularized via CSC Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 4, s. 2020, government agencies are mandated to craft and implement a Mental Health Program to promote overall mental wellness and provide an inclusive, conducive, and supportive work environment for public officials and employees. The said resolution is anchored on Republic Act No. 11036 or the Mental Health Act of 2018.</p> <p>From a model MHP created by the Civil Service Commission, strategies to promote employee well-being include the conduct of activities such as physical fitness, teambuilding, regular stress management, organized peer counseling, support groups, and interest groups. There is also a need to organize continuing mental health awareness and education activities for the agency’s workforce.</p> <p>In support to this, the DA-ATI-RTC-CAR is conducting a staff development activity once every semester to recognize the importance of taking care of employees’ physical and mental wellness to effectively fulfill their duties. This includes training, seminars, and other development activities, which play an important role in helping employees to refine their skills and knowledge and is essential to the professional and personal growth of the employees. Thus, this 1st semester of CY 2023, the activity will be a combination of a (1) Training on how to Process Healthy Foods and (2) Sports activity. Health and wellness programs for employees are important because it is an effective approach to health promotion and their holistic development. Also, one way to promote employee well-being is through physical fitness programs. Sports activity is intended to strengthen camaraderie, sportsmanship, and solidarity, while training on processing of healthy foods aims to promote healthy living/lifestyle among all ATI-RTC-CAR employees. Hence, this activity. The activity was conducted on May 4-5, 2023, actively participated by 41 ATI-RTC-CAR staff at Um-a Farm Tourism and Riverview Hot Spring Resort, Asin Road, Baguio City.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“Thank you so much to the management for granting our request to have our Staff Development outside the office. We enjoyed our activity today not only the fun and laughter but also all the learnings we had today especially for me since I do also have that desire to put up a small business. Through this, I learned a lot, enough for my small business in the future. One is to focus on your goal, that is I think what made me unsuccessful from all the businesses I’ve tried putting up before. Also, as emphasized a while ago, when it comes to finances, I admit that I do have a lot of excessive and unnecessary expenses, which again is a critical decision that boils down to our focus. Again, thank you so much for all the lessons learned and hopefully we continue this kind of activity and I’m sure all of us learned something today. Thank you so much and God Bless.” Aida Gama, Assistant for Technical Operations</i></p> <p><i>“Yes, I agree with everything that was mentioned. I’m looking forward to that franchise because I also have that desire to enter the business industry. I have already started three businesses, one of which was closed to the public because of the pandemic wherein the business industry was really affected. One thing I realized was a business, whether small or big, needs capital. Again, that’s right, our focus must be clear and right. We must decipher our need from our wants. Not only that but I also appreciate how Sir Elmer emphasized the importance of being a member of cooperatives. I am also a member of multiple cooperatives and I’ve experienced the blessing of it. Loans from these can be used to invest in your business unlike when you keep your money at the bank, there is less return. Personally, I’ve been planning my business since 2012 and there are a lot of challenges. Your financial decisions really play a vital part in your business. Investment is not a race; it really needs thorough planning. Again, thank you so much.” Edimer Paduyao, Assistant for Technical Operations</i></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	<p>2ND QUARTER PAFES ASSESSMENT CUM PAFES SOFT LAUNCHING</p> <p>The Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) is one of the key strategies in pursuing an inclusive approach to accelerate the transformation toward a modern and industrialized Philippine agriculture. The PAFES shall establish a way of implementing the banner programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA). This will integrate the implementation of agriculture and fisheries programs and related support services of the provincial level across municipalities. Wherein it shall also serve as an extension center for agricultural development plans and programs of various stakeholders in pursuing the full devolution of agriculture and fisheries extension services. It shall strengthen the capability of LGUs to plan and implement multiple agriculture and fisheries programs with the province as the center for operation.</p> <p>During the operational planning workshop and benchmarking activity conducted at Ilocos Norte, the LGUs crafted their project proposals based on the priority commodities identified in their CPAFEP. Then, after the series of assessment and presentation of proposals, the outputs were approved. To ensure smooth implementation of the PAFES activities, quarterly assessments should be done. Soft launching of PAFES in each province is part of the project implementation.</p> <p>The activity was held from May 4-5, 2023, at Tabuk City, Kalinga, with 30 Participants from LGUs, DA-RFO-CAR, BFAR-CAR, ATI-RTC-CAR and facilitated by the DA-RFO-CAR, BFAR-CAR and ATI-RTC Team.</p>																																					
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INSPECTION	<p>INSPECTION OF CORE PGS GROUP MEMBERS OF MONTANYOSA ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTITIONERS' ASSOCIATION (MOAPA) FOR CERTIFICATION, May 22-26, 2023</p> <p>The Montanyosa Organic Practitioners Association of Mt. Province undergone inspection activities on May 23-25, 2023. DA-RFO-CAR and DA-RFO-AU served as observers during the inspection while DA-BAFS and DA-CAR Regulatory Division served as inspectors during the activity.</p> <p>Results of inspection are as follows:</p> <p>Scope of both farms were on Crop Production in Bauko, Mt. Province</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="637 1089 1305 1192"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Major NC</th> <th>Minor NC</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Genoviva Oviedo</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agnes Banwa</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Scope of both farms were on Crop Production in Besao, Mt. Province</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1398 1089 2220 1159"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Major NC</th> <th>Minor NC</th> <th>Observations</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Safe Pekas</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Scope of both farms were on Crop Production in Sagada, Mt. Province</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="637 1276 1455 1375"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Major NC</th> <th>Minor NC</th> <th>Observations</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pongawi Anaban</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Tomeg</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Major NC	Minor NC	Total	Genoviva Oviedo	3	4	7	Agnes Banwa	3	4	7	Name	Major NC	Minor NC	Observations	Total	Safe Pekas	4	2	2	8	Name	Major NC	Minor NC	Observations	Total	Pongawi Anaban	1	3	1	5	Mary Tomeg	1	4	1	6
Name	Major NC	Minor NC	Total																																				
Genoviva Oviedo	3	4	7																																				
Agnes Banwa	3	4	7																																				
Name	Major NC	Minor NC	Observations	Total																																			
Safe Pekas	4	2	2	8																																			
Name	Major NC	Minor NC	Observations	Total																																			
Pongawi Anaban	1	3	1	5																																			
Mary Tomeg	1	4	1	6																																			



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Internal Assessment	<p>REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RCEF EXTENSION COMPONENT, May 30-31, 2023, Garden nen Ines, Shilan, La Trinidad, Benguet</p> <p>The extension component of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Extension Program (RCEP) includes various interventions such as the Establishment of Learning Sites/Farm Schools, Training of Trainers on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, Farm mechanization, and the conduct of rice technical briefings, farmers field school, techno demonstration, digital farming, nutrient management, and others. These interventions aim to improve the knowledge and skills of smallholder farmers in Kalinga and Ifugao, enabling them to adopt sustainable and modern rice farming practices, improve their productivity, and access to markets.</p> <p>It is essential to conduct a review and assessment of the implementation of the training and extension services provided by the RCEEP to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of these interventions. The review and assessment help identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program's interventions, assess their impact on the farmers' knowledge, skills, and productivity, and provide recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>Specifically, the activity sought to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program's training and extension services, including the quality and delivery of training, accessibility of the program to the target beneficiaries, and the relevance of the topics covered. 2. assess the effect of the training and extension services on the adoption of sustainable rice farming practices, increase in productivity and income, and access to markets by smallholder farmers in Kalinga and Ifugao. 3. identify gaps in the delivery of training and extension services, such as inadequate coverage or insufficient technical support, and provide recommendations for improvement. 4. determine the sustainability of the program's impact and identify opportunities for scaling up and replicating successful interventions.

Prepared by:

BRANDY L. BANDA-AY
 M & E/Designated Report Officer
 Date: June 9, 2023

Noted by:

CHARLIE C. SAGUDAN
 Center Director/Division Chief
 Date: June 9, 2023