



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JUNE | 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 BATCH 2</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: Course 1. Basic Course on Agricultural Extension Delivery; Course 2. Community Needs Assessment; Course 3. Project Proposal Preparation; Course 4. Resource Person Development Course; and Course 5. Training Management. The training program started in 2021 and participants are now in course 4 which is 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 some who are yet to be resource persons should be adept at how to be a good if not the best, efficient, and effective one. 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 a capacity builder through this training.</p> <p>On June 6-8, 2023, 27 AEWs graduated from the training at Tabuk City, Kalinga.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I would like to thank the Training Management Team for inviting us and for this training as a whole. Also, thanks to the participants for being participative. All the topics discussed are relevant because we can use it in our own designations. With the learnings we had, we can now present good visual presentations, become good resource person, and become a transformed leader in our communities." Judilyn B. Ballogat, Agricultural Technologist of Lamut, Ilugao</i></p> <p><i>"Thank you so much ATI-CAR for inviting us. This training on Resource Person Development is relevant to me. I learned a lot, most especially the tips for overcoming stage fright, and how to become a good resource speaker. I also appreciate the venue and food. Furthermore, thank you for this activity I was able to know some AEWs from different provinces." Mac Jon Earl Gacay, Agricultural Technologist of Sablan, Benguet</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>FEDMTP COURSE 3. VALUE ADDING AND MARKETING</p> <p>What will happen tomorrow is/are the result/s of what we have planned today. Although it is expected that there are risks associated with the future, the probability of increasing its success can be done by planning.</p> <p>Farming has evolved as a business. Farmers need a good business plan to provide a clear strategy and objectives for their operations. In this way, they can stay productive and focused. Having a well-prepared farm business plan helps the farmer in utilizing the resources needed in developing a profitable farm operation. Oftentimes, action-oriented farmers are tempted to skip the planning stage and focus more on production activities. However, it is a risky venture if plans were not laid out at the start. For farmers who want to pursue loans, a sound business plan is important. Having this document is evidence that the farming operation is making a profit or will profit.</p> <p>However, the challenge and reality are that most of the farmers cannot do this themselves and still need technical assistance in preparing. The Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) are the frontliners to perform this in their localities. The skills of AEWs to assist these farmers will be very vital in developing a sound farm business plan.</p> <p>In this Training Course, the AEWs learned the four major components of the Farm Business Plan: Marketing Plan; Production Plan; Organization and Management Plan; and Financial Plan. Simulation exercises and worksheets will be used as a strategy in preparing and packaging the plan. This course is the third course of the Farm Enterprise Development and Management Training Program (FEDMTP). It is hoped that this training will bring forth an enhanced and skilled agriculture workforce to help farmers assist in their farm business plans. A total of 23 AEW participants coming from different provinces of CAR completed the training on May 30 to June 2, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"This training is very relevant to me and to my designation. The learning here will all be used because I am currently under Research Division in the Baguio Animal Breeding and Research Center, and it requires planning methods and the things discussed. This training will help us improve and enhance our recording in our office and it helps me in establishing my business. I am thankful to ATI for inviting me to this training that I had the opportunity to become a participant. Furthermore, I appreciate the participants here for becoming cooperative and active. Also, I want to thank the resource person and training management team they are all experts and well-versed. Once again, thank you and God bless." Jimmy D. Gacawan, AEW of DA-BABRIC-CAR</i></p> <p><i>"To Sire Ed thank you for the lessons and patience you had provided. To ATI staff thank you for this challenging training. Those challenges are so advantageous to us because it made me realize some potential. In this training, we learned so much, especially in the production plan. I commend the participants for making me blend in. Thank you, TMTs, for this training." Giovanne Ross C. Bragado, AEW of Bauko Mt. Province</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON RECALIBRATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF RBO AND 4H FOCAL PERSONS (BATCH 1)</p> <p>Rural Based Organizations (RBO) like 4H Clubs, Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs), Pambansang Manalon, Magbabaul, Mag-uuma, Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (PAMP), Magsasaka Syentista (MS), Indigenous People (IPs) are recognized as functional and productive partners of the Department of Agriculture in planning, implementing and evaluating programs and projects that will help alleviate rural poverty, increase farmers income, generate jobs, and improve quality of life in the rural areas. Through AO No. 09, series of 2002, they are encouraged to be revitalized and strengthened in order that they can become effective and efficient partners of the Department of Agriculture. As embodied in the Local Government Code, the organization and management of these organized groups are lodged to the Local Government Units. These organizations have been organized by the coordinators at the barangay level and federated at the municipal and provincial level led by the LGU RBO Coordinators and at the regional level by the regional RBO coordinators of DA-RFO and DA-ATI-CAR.</p> <p>Generally, it was aimed that after this training, participants will become more knowledgeable and skillful in organizing new and strengthening existing RBOs in their respective areas. Specifically, it sought to review the RBOs and the importance of RBOs in agricultural development; identify and discuss the steps in organizing RBOs through the Community organizing approach; enumerate and explain the various strategies in organizing new and strengthening existing RBOs; explain the roles and tasks of RBO Coordinators as trainers; and prepare action plan on how they will organize or strengthen existing RBOs in their respective areas.</p> <p>Said activity was conducted on June 21-23, 2023 at Sab-atan Hall, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet, completed by 27 participants.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I am very thankful because this is my first-time attending training and it is about RBO, so I am a bit nervous. I asked Ma'am Fe to accompany me, and I was at ease as she was able to join. I was not aware of the organizations in RBO but when we went to the topics on RBO in this training I was able to have a clear understanding of it, especially the 4H club as well as the PAMP. So, with this training, those organizations are clearer to me now."</i> Roderick L. Santiago, Alfonso Lista Ilugao</p> <p><i>"In Tuba, we are like the next generations to handle this organization so this is our first-time learning about 4H, and RICs that's why it is a big thanks to ATI-CAR. To us, audience as well, at least we have gained more knowledge about RBO. Thank you very much."</i> Jaysle Leon, Tuba Benguet</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>LOCAL FARMERS EXCHANGE VISIT/BENCHMARKING FOR CERTIFIED LEARNING SITES OF CAR</p> <p>As of March 2023, there were 90 certified Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs I and II) in CAR. These LSAs have various focused commodities, various practices, and technologies that are worthy of emulation not just for small farmers but also for other LSAs. While every farm is unique and no two farms will follow the same path to success, benchmarking gives a solid measuring point of their operations by analyzing and comparing their practices to be able to keep up with industry trends and meet the demands of the modern market.</p> <p>Benchmarking enables these LSA cooperators to understand where their organization stands in comparison to other LSAs and ultimately encourages them to continuously improve. Hence, this three-day activity conducted in LSAs of Benguet and Mt. Province was participated by 33 participants.</p> <p>Learnings/ Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants were reminded of their responsibilities as an LSA operator, which includes the submission of their semestral accomplishment reports and liquidation reports.• Additional obligation for the LSA I operators was presented.• Creating group chat for the group in cases of queries and other related information, and also to continue to build a rapport within the group.• In farming, not one rule fits all. Find what particular technology or practices are suited with each farm.• To be a learning site proprietor means dedication to sharing your farm technology.• Learning sites need to fill in the void left by the government employees that are stuck up in their offices.• Different LSAs should help together to enhance marketing• Eco-farm tourism is also a lucrative business. <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I just want to encourage everyone to continue what we have started and what we have been doing. Being an LSA is a big help because of the many opportunities it offers. In addition, I am thankful for this training and for the ATI because I have met fellow farm partners which I know is a start in building a linkage."</i> Mr. Shawnie Dhale B. Bitso</p> <p><i>"Once again, good afternoon to all of us. First, we would like to thank ATI for inviting us to attend this benchmarking and to every one of us. We are thankful for this opportunity and for all the farms we have visited. We have learned a lot from your farming practices, and we have seen ideas that we can adopt and apply to our farm."</i> Ms. Julie Garwinen</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY-BASED FARM (STBF) PROPOSAL PREPARATION FOR THE MAGSASAKA SIYENTISTA AND LSAS IN CAR</p> <p>It is said that promoting the application of science and technology in agriculture is the foundation to improve the productivity, quality, efficiency, and competitiveness of agriculture, contributing to the modernization of agriculture and rural areas, ensuring food security, social security, and income enhancement for agricultural producers and traders.</p> <p>One modality developed by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) is the Science and Technology-Based Farm (STBF)- a technology transfer strategy to bring science-based solutions to farmers to improve their productivity and income. Through the STBF modality, specific gaps in the practices of the Magsasaka Siyentista (MS) were identified, assessed, and improved.</p> <p>The STBF then became a part of the Techno Gabay Program implementation as the MS are the priority partners on this. Said project aims as well to promote broader adoption of the SandT interventions by others following the 'to see is to believe' principle. During the TGP's implementation by the PCAARRD, several STBF projects were funded and implemented by the MS, partner member agency (PMA), and the concerned consortia. These projects were seen as an effective modality of promoting and verifying more of the generated technologies as these are directly from the farmers' fields. The STBF was then expanded into CBSTF or STCBF to enhance the active participation of the community.</p> <p>The MS were selected following the set criteria- main is that he or she is practicing advanced farming practices and technologies than the other farmers in the locality – if possible, science and technology-based practices. With the purpose to provide knowledge and skill on the STBF implementation, there is a need to orient the new MS on this. Along with this are the skills in crafting STBF proposals for possible funding and implementation to showcase the results generated from SandT based research. Further, as a support to these MSs, after training support to fund their proposals will be granted by DA-ATI-CAR to selected proposals.</p> <p>On June 12-14, 2023, a total of 20 pax finished the training at Aspulan Hall, ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"We would like to thank you, even though we are young farmers, you still cater us, thank you because through this training we just have learned how to make and improved our proposals."</i> Melody E. Sib-at, Kub-ao Farm</p> <p><i>"We considered as Senior MS and we are hoping that the young MS will help us in these activities."</i> Thomas K. Sadopen, Bontoc</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT FOR FARMERS: TRAINING ON INTEGRATED RICE-BASED FARMING SYSTEM WITH STARTER KITS</p> <p>The Rice-Based Integrated Farming System (RBIFS) is a traditional farming system that involves 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. 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.</p> <p>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. 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 RBIFS 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.</p> <p>At the end of the training, the participants should be able to adopt and practice the rice-poultry-vegetable integrated rice farming system. A total of 23 farmers from Sagada, Mt. Province completed the training on June 20-22, 2023.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"Training opportunities like this are rare, and we are fortunate to have been provided with one. Since our early years, we have been assisting our parents in the field, gaining experience. However, without access to such specialized training, our ability to learn new technologies would be limited. Observing our fellow farmers, we used to allow our rice seedlings to grow excessively tall. During seedling pulling, we would trim their leaves and roots. However, we have learned that this old practice is not recommended. Our discussions have revealed that older seedlings yield fewer tillers, resulting in a smaller number of panicles. The addition of chickens to our farm will provide us with supplementary food, which is especially beneficial for us as we handle household budgeting. This will significantly alleviate our responsibilities as "ilaw ng tahanan"."</i> Juliet G. Fao-anan</p> <p><i>"We are thankful for this training because we learned a lot. We have learned new techniques, and we will apply these learnings in our farming activities. We have various planting distances when it comes to planting rice. Some of us would plant at a wider distance, and others would plant at a closer distance because if the golden apple snail eats one hill, it would leave us a backup, and we don't need to replant. But we are thankful that you came to share these technologies with us so that we can increase our harvest. And for the chickens, this is also a big help for us."</i> Mina A. Bagni</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON FARMER SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM</p> <p>The Farmer-Scientists RDE Training Program (FSTP) is an integrative and holistic three-phase agricultural research, development, and extension (RDE) methodology. It primarily involves the development of appropriate values for farmers engaged in crops such as corn, rice, vegetables, and animals in a corn-based production system to adopt scientific and sustainable methods of farming. It is also focused on the transfer of agricultural technologies from research centers to farmers through partnerships with service providers to come up with meaningful changes in rural communities. It is aimed to improve farmers' income and quality of life beyond the poverty level.</p> <p>With the program's success in the pilot and expansion areas, the program was mandated in the country through Executive Order 710 signed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on February 27, 2006, titled "Nationwide Adoption of the Corn-Based Farmer-Scientists Research, Development and Extension (RDE) Training Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development to Liberate Poor Farmers from the Bondage of Poverty and Hunger." Since its signing, the Agricultural Training Institute has been implementing the program through the Local Government Units. In the case of ATI-CAR, a Training of Trainers was conducted in 2018. However, it only covered two provinces (Apayao and Kalinga) and the participants then are now either retired, handle other programs already, or not with the LGUs anymore. Furthermore, there are newly hired AEWs in the LGUs. Hence, the need for this training to provide the LGUs and other agencies involved in FSTP with the working knowledge of the program and to cover other provinces in the region.</p> <p>On June 20-22, 2023, 12 AEW completed the training at Dammuhan Hall, ATI-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I am thankful to our Local Government Unit to be given the chance to attend this training. To our younger generations, just continue to attend training like this. Looking back when I was your age, I am not really an experienced Agriculturist, but because of the training I used to attend, I gained wider knowledge and have something to share with others. I am glad for those learnings I incurred because not only me benefits from it but also others."</i> Roland Antonio, LGU-Pudtol, Apayao</p> <p><i>"We are very grateful to the Resource Speakers from UPLB who were with us for three days and thoroughly explained to us the topics under FSTP. Hopefully, we will be successful in implementing the program with the support of the Local Government Unit together with ATI, UPLB, and other partner agencies. For the food, I would suggest that it would be better if the snacks served are our own delicacies so it will also be our way of supporting the locals."</i> Gemma Lunag, CPAG-Iligao</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) ON THE PNS CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CACAO BEANS WITH VALUE ADDITION FOR AEWs OF IFUGAO</p> <p>The Philippines can be a potential producer of Cacao. It can produce good quality cacao beans due to its climatic conditions and soil characteristics that are conducive to growing cacao. At present, there is an increasing interest in local farmers due to the increasing local and international demand for cacao products, which is beyond the production capacity of the country with a world price that is constantly favorable. With a positive attitude towards sustainable cacao production in the country, the Philippines can compete globally in the world's supply of cocoa products. However, concerns about food quality and safety, and environmental and social sustainability issues for cacao products have always been the challenge for growers. Microbial, biological, and physical hazards are concomitant with all the stages of cacao production, from primary production to transport or shipment. All these must be considered as these affect the quality and safety of cacao beans. Also, particular attention must be given to minimizing Ochratoxin, a contamination that is normally encountered during the fermentation process.</p> <p>The complexity of growing and producing cacao beans and Tablea processing urges the Department of Agriculture (DA) thru the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) and as requested by the cacao growers to develop a Code of Practice for Philippine Cacao Beans + Tablea + Good Agricultural Practices. This code reflects the recent technological developments of cacao production and processing, harmonized with the codex requirements for heavy metals, microbial contamination, pesticide residues, and hygiene. Further, the Code also provides general recommendations to allow flexible and uniform adoption even when production practices and environmental conditions are diverse. Thus, the training was conducted to equip the AEWs of Ifugao and nearby towns of the province with technical information on the newly developed Code of Practice for cacao bean production, fermentation, and processing. To be globally competitive, we need to ensure that the products being produced are safe, quality, and suitable for human consumption.</p> <p>The training was conducted on June 13-16, 2023, at IFSU Nayon Lamut Ifugao where 30 participants completed the training.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I would like to thank DA-ATI-CAR for accommodating us as participants even though we are not part of the targeted pax. We are happy that we were given the chance to participate in this training. We have learned a lot here in this training and we as teachers of processing can impart these learnings to our students."</i> Mae P. Lunag, Nayon, Ifugao</p> <p><i>"At first, I have little knowledge towards cacao production. Because in our nursery we have cacao seedlings, but we are just disregarding it. But during the training I have learned a lot and I was challenged to plant cacao in my farm for me to apply what I have learned in the training and for me to share to our farmers."</i> Timothy B. Guimbatan, Lamut Ifugao</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT ON URBAN AGRICULTURE</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 This month, two batches of training in support to community garden establishment on urban agriculture were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Batch</th><th>Number of pax</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>14</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>50</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Learnings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tips on watering mushroom• site for growing mushroom• Mushroom production needs mind setting, dedication from the start to end• Organically grown and healthy• We learned the materials needed in mushroom production from substrate preparation, bagging of fruit bags, pasteurization, inoculation and fruiting requirements of oyster mushrooms.• Always love what you are doing and share your blessings to others• We learned that mushroom production is helpful to an organization and also to families because of the importance of having backyard gardening with mushrooms because we can generate income.• The procedures or steps how to make mushroom production• Learned the three waste materials that are useful in mushroom production.• How to make fruiting bags• Harvesting of oyster mushrooms.• I learned that we can produce mushrooms in an open area.	Batch	Number of pax	14	25	15	25	Total	50
Batch	Number of pax									
14	25									
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Leam)	Training	<p>TOT ON PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) FOR CORE PGS GROUPS IN CAR</p> <p>Participatory Guarantee Systems (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 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 the 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, regulations, and processes, similarly observed by third-party certification.</p> <p>In 2020, Republic Act No. 11511, or the Act Amending RA 10068 (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010) was enacted to recognize the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) as an option for organic certification. Item (g) of Section 14 (Participatory Guarantee System) of the amended OA Act of 2010 states that, "The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), in close coordination with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), shall make available the required training program on organic agriculture standards and processes for PGS groups applying for accreditation". In support of this mandate, the ATI in collaboration with BAFS identified a set of preparatory activities for the implementation of PGS. These include the development of training modules, and a series of capability-building activities for organic implementers and identified PGS organizations. As an alternative and complementary tool to third-party certification, PGS plays a vital role in rural development and farmer empowerment through the active engagement of 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>In the Cordillera Region, many organized OA associations were trained in OA Production Technologies and Internal Control System (ICS) which are eligible and/or qualified under PGS accreditation. However, to ensure the trainers' capacity in the establishment and practice of PGS, the ATI together with DA-RFO will conduct a Training of Trainers (TOT) on PGS. Its primary objective is to have a better understanding of the provisions of PGS, different key elements, features, and characteristics of the PGS, certification of Core PGS Groups, and accreditation of PGS Groups as Organic Certifying Bodies.</p> <p>A total of 22 farmers completed the training on June 6-16, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I have learned in this training the following: the functions of Core PGS Group, record documentation, and I also learned that there should be area for tools and importantly strict observation of waste management. Thank you for encouraging us organic practitioners to apply for PGS certification. I'm also grateful for the Mock Farm Inspection because I learned a lot from the farm owner. Looking forward for our group to be certified also." Mr. Ermo Pistola, WOPA</i></p> <p><i>"Thank you for this opportunity for us to learn the step-by-step process of PGS certification and accreditation. I have learned a lot especially the record keeping/documentation. I realized that I still have so many things to learn about organic farming especially the Philippine National Standards. It is a privileged to be part of this training and I hope that I can apply all the learnings and insights in my own farm, and I will also share to other organic practitioners for them to be more encouraged and inspired." Mr. Aranito Pinas, KOPA</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON PROCESSING and PACKAGING OF AGRI-FISHERY PRODUCTS FOR THE MOTHERS OF THE FARM FAMILIES: PHASE 2 TRAINING ON BRANDING AND MARKETING OF AGRI-FISHERY PRODUCTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE FARM FAMILIES: PHASE 3</p> <p>In the Philippines, family farming is more than just family-managed activity, but it speaks of multiple dimensions and how a typical Filipino family engages every member of the household in agriculture. It is composed of a single or extended family, a household mostly of small-scale farmers, fishers, lps and upland dwellers reliant on family members' labor in food production, processing, and distribution. It is a culture-based and family managed that highlights the significant roles and needs of family farmers towards the achievement of food production and sustainable development. 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 the agri-fishery production for a collaborative effort in helping one another achieved their goal on "Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita at Marangal na Buhay ng Pamilyang Magsasaka" or "Abundant Harvests, High Income and Dignified Life of Family Farmers."</p> <p>The crafting of the 10-Year Plans and Programs for Farming Family PAP4FF CY 2019-2028 paved the way of improving the family farming system in the Philippines. This will serve as a framework to develop public policies and investments to support family farming and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), including rural poverty eradication in all its forms. Special Order nos. 792 and 546 series of 2019 and 2020 respectively states that: Agriculture Sec. William D. Dar designated the DA-ATI as the chair for the National Committee on Family Farming (NCFF) to officially carry on with the initiatives on Family Farming. Hence, the training on processing and packaging of agri-fishery products with an input on family values was conceptualized for the "Mothers" of the farming families.</p> <p>Hence, the two batches focused on training on processing and packaging for "Mothers" and training on branding and marketing for "Children" with an input on family values. Said training was conducted on June 26-28, 2023</p> <p>Learnings/ Agreements (mothers)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Making your own design on branding2. Digital Agriculture Marketing3. Agriculture Apps4. Tamarind, Lumpia and Pickle Processing5. Gender Roles in farming family6. Farm family concept7. To implement their submitted project proposals8. To ensure food safety9. To submit project proposals for families who did not yet submit10. Package processed foods



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>Impressions: (mothers)</p> <p><i>"First, we are very thankful together with our brethren from other provinces, as they have said, we are blessed as our families were one of the chosen beneficiaries of this program of the government, ATI. We are thankful for your patience in taking care of us, as well as our AEWs whom you have said to be as bridge for us to come here. Yesterday during the processing, I was thinking when we go home, I will be getting tamarind because they are only being wasted in our place. In fact, it is only a waste in our place as they only fall. But during the processing yesterday, the process was simple, but the outcome was delicious. That is why even my child, I have said that we should go in the field and collect tamarind to which she agreed when it is not raining. We are very thankful enough, as to the radish and carrots, it is quite expensive in our place, that is why I have said that I didn't take much interest on it as I cannot afford to buy to process it as I have said with Ma'am Esther yesterday and she said that I should take chance when the price is low however, in our place it is still expensive." Elizabeth Antonio, Abra</i></p> <p><i>"First, we are thankful enough as what ma'am have said we are blessed as we are chosen despite the many farming families. I am thankful with this training center as it is helping us farmers a lot. Thank you very much." Ana Lang-ay, Sto. Tomas Baguio City</i></p> <p>Learnings/ Agreements (children)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Making your own design on branding2. Digital Agriculture Marketing3. Agriculture Apps4. Tamarind, Lumpia and Pickle Processing5. Gender Roles in farming family6. Farm family concept7. To implement their submitted project proposals8. To ensure food safety9. To submit project proposals for families who did not yet submit <p>Impressions: (children)</p> <p><i>"First of all, I am thankful with the activities we have done, the advices of our speakers. These can be additional income for us farm families. I appreciate it all especially the digital agriculture as I can observe that only few does it." Mr. Dario Montes, Jr., La Trinidad, Benguet</i></p> <p><i>"What I can also say is that, I am very thankful with our training as we have learned how to make simple products. I am also thankful with all the other learnings that we have learned and I hope that we will apply it in our farms." Ms. Cristy Tam-ao, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao</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 RABBIT PRODUCTION AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FOR AEWS OF CAR</p> <p>The outbreak of the African Swine Fever and bird flu have severely affected the swine and poultry industries which in turn caused the rabbit industry to bloom aggressively and gain grounds not just as pets but as food.</p> <p>Rabbits are characterized with fast growth rate, high fertility, high feed conversion efficiency, and early maturity (Karl and Mutsami, 2020). They can be grown in little spaces that is fit for urban and peri-urban settings. In addition, rabbit meat has been known as source of healthier food compared to other food animals. However, rabbits are also known as very selective in their feeding behavior. They are much more sensitive to slight changes in the feed than other livestock. (Nieves, et al, 2014). Rabbits are also prone to diarrhea when the forage fed is not hygienic hence the need for raisers to ensure that their sources of forages are safe, palatable and fit for the rabbits.</p> <p>Since rabbit meat are slowly being accepted and utilize as food source, humane slaughtering and dressing shall also be instilled. Likewise, introduction of new dishes is still perceived as a need to attract more consumers that will eventually lead to higher demand and production. Thus, this training was conducted on June 19-23, 2023 attended by 16 participants.</p> <p>Learnings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rabbitry can indeed be a viable business opportunity and source of food. Rabbitries involve breeding and raising rabbits for various purposes, such as meat production, fur, show animals, or as pets.2. One problem with the rabbit industry is that it is not fully accepted by the community as a food but rather as a pet. It needs more promotion.3. Rabbit meat is listed by the USDA as the healthiest meat available on earth available to humans; it is low in fat, cholesterol, and calories while having high protein levels. It can be cooked with a variety of recipes.



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>TGP CONSULTATIVE MEETING</p> <p>The transfer of the management of the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) implementation from DOST-PCAARRD to DA-ATI provided an opportunity for the training institute to be more involved with the various stakeholders of the program. The TGP aims to bring closer to the grassroots level the information and technologies on agriculture, forestry, and natural resources- for which the DA-ATI is also into.</p> <p>For CAR, after the weaning of the TGP from HARRDEC (now CorCAARRD), DA-ATI-CAR provided a series of support to the TGP stakeholders- FITS Center staff and Magsasaka Siyentista (MS). Part of this is the support in terms of governance providing avenues for these stakeholders to be updated on the program's implementation and to discuss issues among themselves.</p> <p>Likewise, this would be a good opportunity to monitor the activities of these MSs while sustaining their partnership with ATI-CAR and among them.</p> <p>On June 15, 2023, 20 participants gathered at Aspulan Hall, ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet for the meeting. Miss Sagpa-ey provided an orientation on the TGP to the groups- its objectives; modalities; brief history and updates on the TGP and MS implementation in CAR, and proposed MS report format. Each Magsasaka Siyentista were given a chance to share their farm activities and other ideas they want to impart to fellow MS.</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)	Orientation and awarding of checks	<p>ORIENTATION AND AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES OF ACCREDITATION OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED LSAS, CUAMFS and NURSERY ESTABLISHMENTS</p> <p>It has always been a policy of the State to ensure the food security of its people by making agriculture productive. In making agriculture productive and sustainable, two factors are deemed necessary: (1) the presence of dedicated farmers to till the soil and (2) the application of appropriate technologies to increase farm yield. To achieve these, agricultural extension plays a vital role in building capacities to achieve agricultural productivity and consequently, in changing perspectives that indeed agriculture is a viable source of income.</p> <p>On June 15, 2023, an orientation was held at Aspulan Hall, DA-ATI-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet with the staff Ms. Perla Epie, ATI-RTC-CAR DMO I, Mr. Romualdo Bantag, Ms. Ceferina B. Dagdag, and Ms. Tiffanie Grace Bengag, ATI-RTC-CAR Technical Support Staffs for PAS.</p> <p>Mr. Charlie Sagudan, ATI-RTC-CAR Center Director delivered his message expressing his thanks to the participants for attending the Orientation and Awarding Certificates of Accreditation to the Newly Established Learning Sites, Community Urban Agriculture Model Farm and Establishment of Nursery. After the message, Ms. Epie discussed the general features of a learning site for Agriculture I, CUAMF and Nursery Establishment. She then oriented the participants on their duties and responsibilities as partners of the ATI. Ms. Epie emphasized that partners were required to return the amount of assistance availed if it becomes non-functional, non-compliant, and with undesirable behavior for 3 consecutive monitoring periods. Warnings will be issued for the first two periods and notice of termination on the 3rd time.</p> <p>A total of 20 LSA Operators and 10 LGU partners participated in the program. Each participant accepted their obligations and promised to do their best. They also expressed their gratitude to the ATI-RTC-CAR and hoped for continuous assistance. The newly established LSAs, CUAMFs, and Nursery Establishment were as follows: Love Nature Farm; Maynandro's Integrated Farm; Nabe Organic Farm; Bataan Rock Integrated Farm; Imbagiw Rice Farm; Tadian Central School; Taffia Tadian Fisher Folks; Roxas National High School; Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School; and Joaquin Smith National High School.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	LSA Validation	<p>LSA Applicant Validation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>📍 Juhaina's Integrated Farm (Sharibel B. Unciano)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The farm is a potential learning site but needs to improve their holding area, proper placement and orderliness of the swine, fish and poultry housing and cleanliness of the existing CR. ✓ Landscaping is needed to improve the farm's aesthetic appearance ✓ Biogas system needs more study and research on how to go about it to be useful in the farm ✓ For further validation if the suggestions are followed and considered to qualify as an LSA <p>📍 El Camino Verde Farm View (Alex B. Valera)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farm is a potential LSA as to the amenities but holding area and CR is inside their house. (sala) ✓ Outside garden which can serve as holding area needs to be widened to accommodate at least 20 pax ✓ Farm has no permanent employee who will manage the farm while the applicant is teaching and not around (he is a teacher in ASSISTS). Though the farm is the permanent residence of the applicant, he is not always physically present. ✓ For further validation if the suggestions are followed and considered to qualify as an LSA <p>📍 P-7 Integrated Farm (Asuncion D. Plurad)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The farm is a potential learning site with a separate building near the farm with complete amenities excluding lodging. ✓ The applicant is 65 yrs old which automatically disqualifies her. But according to her, her children are still with them helping in the farm and they also have lots which are part and adjacent of the lot being applied as LSA. ✓ The applicant needs to decide who will be placed as applicant to suit other documents that needs to be submitted. ✓ For further validation if the suggestions are followed and considered to qualify as an LSA <p>📍 Lagayan LGU Integrated Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No holding area and CR ✓ Further improvement on the landscaping is needed. ✓ There should be more variety of plants <p>For further validation if the suggestions are followed and considered to be an LSA.</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)	LSA Validation and Monitoring	VALIDATION OF LSA APPLICANTS AND MONITORING OF LSA I (June 5-9, 2023, and June 13, 2023)														
		Ms. Perla Epie, and Mr. Romualdo Bantag travelled to Kalinga, Ifugao, and Mt. Province to conduct field monitoring of CUAMF. The result of validation are as follows:														
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Field Validation to LSA applicants 														
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">Farm/Organization</th> <th>Remarks/Recommendation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 544 1139 655">1. Darleen Pohnac,</td> <td data-bbox="1139 544 2355 655"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pula, Asipulo, Ifugao - Improve the farm and re-organized the area for livestock - Observed 5s in the farm </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 655 1139 727">2. Jimmy Lingayo</td> <td data-bbox="1139 655 2355 727"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banaue, Ifugao - Recommended for LSA I certification </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 727 1139 871">3. Corazon Wangag/Jerry Wangag</td> <td data-bbox="1139 727 2355 871"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panubtuban, Asipulo, Ifugao - The farm is potential for coffee-based farm - To comply the other requirements needed - To construct a holding area for visitors </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 871 1139 983">4. Gabino Tanan</td> <td data-bbox="1139 871 2355 983"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tadian, Mt. Province - The farmer is the main actor in the operation of the farm - The farmer is physically fit and willing to be trained regularly </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 983 1139 1094">5. Florence M. Laban</td> <td data-bbox="1139 983 2355 1094"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tadian, Mt. Province - The farmer is the main actor in the operation of the farm - The farmer is physically fit and willing to be trained regularly </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 1094 1139 1198">6. Eden Alindag</td> <td data-bbox="1139 1094 2355 1198"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cadad-anan, Tadian, Mt. Province - The farmer is the main actor in the operation of the farm - The farmer is physically fit and willing to be trained regularly </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Farm/Organization	Remarks/Recommendation	1. Darleen Pohnac,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pula, Asipulo, Ifugao - Improve the farm and re-organized the area for livestock - Observed 5s in the farm 	2. Jimmy Lingayo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banaue, Ifugao - Recommended for LSA I certification 	3. Corazon Wangag/Jerry Wangag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panubtuban, Asipulo, Ifugao - The farm is potential for coffee-based farm - To comply the other requirements needed - To construct a holding area for visitors 	4. Gabino Tanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tadian, Mt. Province - The farmer is the main actor in the operation of the farm - The farmer is physically fit and willing to be trained regularly 	5. Florence M. Laban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tadian, Mt. Province - The farmer is the main actor in the operation of the farm - The farmer is physically fit and willing to be trained regularly 	6. Eden Alindag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cadad-anan, Tadian, Mt. Province - The farmer is the main actor in the operation of the farm - The farmer is physically fit and willing to be trained regularly
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PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)	
		Name of LSA	Conducted Activities
		o LSA Monitoring	
		Shavers Farm	- Bantay, Tabuk City, Kalinga - During the monitoring, there is an ongoing one batch training on RCEF-FFS.
		Apita's Farm	- Appas, Tabuk City, Kalinga - During the monitoring, there is an ongoing one batch training on RCEF-FFS.
		Sagada Heritage Village Bee Farm	- Sagada, Mt. Province - Ms. Epie discussed the upcoming benchmarking activities of LSA operators to be conducted on his farm. - Lodging and food were also canvassed and coordinated to the farm operator.
		Albert Langbayan	- Sagada Mt. Province - There is an ongoing establishment of coffee farm in his area since he has a contract buyer for his product. - Ms. Epie discussed the upcoming benchmarking activities of LSA operators to be conducted on his farm.
		Saragi Farm	- Bigis, Poblacion, Tuba, Benguet - Fruit braggging and pasteurization of fruiting bags is ongoing. - To conduct community service twice every year to share their practice for mushroom production. - Ms. Epie discussed the upcoming benchmarking activities of LSA operators to be conducted on his farm.



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)	LSA Enhancement and Maintenance	LSA ENHANCEMENT Imbagiw Rice Farm – Rice Love Nature Farm Products – HVCD Bataan Rock Integrated Farm - COC LSA MAINTAINED Bunoy's Integrated Farm- RCEF
	Community Urban Agriculture Model Farms (CUAMF)	Community Urban Agriculture Model Farms (CUAMF) Tadian Farmers, Fisherfolks and Irrigators Association (TaFFIA) – NUPAP Tadian Central School – NUPAP Roxas National High School – HVCD Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School- NUPAP Joaquin Smith National High School – NUPAP
Expanding Partnerships Along the Value Chain Through Advisory Services (Advise)	Empowering Farmers and Fisherfolk through Advisory Services	This month, there were 9,273 clients provided by advisory services by the ATI-RTC-CAR FITS Centers.



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)	School on the Air	<p>SCHOOL ON THE AIR- SMART RICE AGRICULTURE (SOA-SRA) FINAL MEETING, June 15, 2023</p> <p>The SOA-SRA final meeting was conducted at Pastoral Multi-purpose Hall, Bangued, Abra on June 15, 2023, with the staff involved Mr. Maximino R. Aromin, ATI-RTC-CAR Information Officer III, Mr. Jomar T. Guerzon, ATI-RTC-CAR Technical Support Staff, Ms. Fhery Jil C. Saguingao, and Ms. Rosemarie B. Balicag. The meeting started with the acknowledgment of the participants and official welcoming remarks by Mr. Silvestre V. Briones. The meeting was then facilitated by Mr. Maximino R. Aromin Jr. and Ms. Fhery Jil C. Saguingao, a BSU intern who served as the EMCEE. It was agreed that the forms like enrollment forms and pre-tests and the e-copy of the directory of participants will be retrieved. Some of the municipalities will be completing the enrollment forms and pre-test to be submitted for the next SOA-SRA meeting. In addition, municipalities that did not provide an e-copy of the participant directory will transmit it via e-mail or the program's messenger group chat.</p> <p>On the finalization of committed SOA-SRA enrollees, 21 municipalities of Abra committed enrollees during the preparatory meeting. However, there are only 16 municipalities who joined the final meeting while 3 municipalities withdraw from the program. These are the municipalities of Boliney, Bucay, and Lagangilang.</p> <p>Meanwhile, during the distribution of supplies to the SOA Coordinators. The final number of enrollees increased for most of the municipalities, which surpassed the number of supplies brought. The supplies were distributed to the 16 municipalities present during the meeting.</p> <p>As a strategy of enriching training services through non-formal education, the implementation of 1 batch of SOA-SRA will be starting its maiden airing on July 18, 2023.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)	Success Story Documentation	<p>DOCUMENTATION OF APICULTURE BEST PRACTICES OF THE SAGADA HERITAGE VILLAGE BEE FARM</p> <p>The activity was conducted on June 13-15, 2023, at Sagada Heritage Village Bee Farm, Sagada, Mountain Province.</p> <p>On their first day June 13, 2023, the team paid a visit to the Sagada Municipal Agriculture Office wherein MA Carmen Fomeg-as together with all the staff of the MAO welcomed them in Sagada. The team took the opportunity to gather basic agricultural data from the MAO. The discussion later zeroed into the local apiculture industry of the municipality. The MAO noted that there has been a consistent decline in the number of beekeepers and bee colonies in the locality. Accordingly, most of the younger beekeepers in Sagada are going abroad. Moreover, beekeeping is not one of the priority commodities in the agriculture sector both at the national and local levels. Nonetheless, demand for honey, even just in the locality, remains high hence the MAO is encouraging the remaining beekeepers in the municipality to further develop and expand their farms. To facilitate a smooth documentation process, the team conducted an initial interview with Mr. Jayson O. Cam-ed, the owner of the Sagada Heritage Village Bee Farm. The team laid out the procedure wherein there will be video and photo shoots. Mr. Cam-ed and his beekeepers at the farm will be interviewed on camera. Hence, the team had to seek permission and explain the process and the purpose of the documentation even though this has already been discussed with Mr. Cam-ed before the documentation proper. The team also gave instructions to Mr. Cam-ed and the other interviewees on their attire and how they are to answer the questions to be recorded concisely. The list of guide questions was also presented to Mr. Cam-ed for his validation and agreement. After securing their consent and finalizing the schedule and the guide questions, an interview on the farm and the farmer's profile followed.</p> <p>The documentation at the main apiary site took place on June 14, 2023, which was the second day. According to Mr. Cam-ed, at the moment, they are grafting queens that were also raised on the farm. As new colonies were purchased by the farm from a bee farm in Buguias, Benguet, the team had the opportunity to observe and record their arrival. They will be giving the queens they have raised to these colonies, Mr. Cam-ed said. As the team toured the farm, Mr. Cam-ed gave an explanation of the beekeeping procedure and the systems that are being used there. Following the farming activities, there was a picture and video session. June 15, 2023, was the final day that queen bee grafting was documented at the lemon farm. During the first interview, Mr. Cam-ed had previously said that one of their causes in beekeeping is pollination, particularly for local farms that grow fruits and vegetables and lemon groves. He thus took the group to one of their partner lemon fields, which is home to a few of their colonies. Following an interview with the young beekeepers employed by the farm, Mr. Cam-ed and the group decided to share the documentation activity's results with them at a later time.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)	Success Story Documentation	<p>CONDUCT INTERVIEW FOR DOCUMENTATION OF SUCCESS STORIES OF RCEP</p> <p>On June 19-23, Mr. Esjay Zausa and Mr. Jaypee Na-oy traveled to Alfonsa, Lista, Ifugao to conduct an interview for success story documentation of RCEP and to validate two LSA applicants.</p> <p>Mr. Michael Johnson Mabalo (FFS Graduate of J and E Integrated Farm) and Ms. Kathryn T. Barroga (ToT graduate on High Quality Inbred Rice Seed Production and Mechanization in 2021; Trainer/Facilitator of J and E Integrated Farm) were interviewed at J and E Integrated Farm on June 20, 2023. The staff proceeded to Bayawon's Farm in the afternoon to interview Mr. Ryan Barroga, (FFS graduate of Bayawon's Farm), and Ms. Angelita Lacambra, (ToT graduate in High Quality Inbred Rice Seed Production and Mechanization in 2020).</p> <p>June 22, 2023, one trainer and one FFS graduate of Jacob's Farm were interviewed for the RCEP success story documentation at Jacobs Farm. The team together with Mr. Peter Adawi, a staff of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Alfonso Lista, Ifugao went to barangay Sta. Maria and Barangay Busilac for the validation of the two Learning Site applications. The Sampayan's farm owner acknowledged that it isn't yet ready to apply for an LSA. He said they are working to fix the farm and would soon resubmit a letter applying for an LSA. The other applicant is a priest. Although the church owns the land, it is operated by an organization in barangay Busilac, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao. The farm's operation has already ceased due to members' misunderstanding, but Mr. Peter said that he will try to reorganize the group and make the farm operational. If he will be successful, they might consider applying as a learning site again.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES	<p>TURN-OVER OF THE 2023 PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXTENSION SYSTEM (PAFES) FUND TO LGU-IFUGAO</p> <p>PAFES shall serve as the institutional arrangement in pursuing the full devolution of AFE services to LGUs, integrating the implementation of agriculture and fisheries programs and related support services at the provincial level. It further aims to strengthen the capability of LGUs to plan and implement multiple agriculture and fisheries programs with the province as the center for operations given the full devolution of AFE services to LGUs as mandated by EO 138.</p> <p>According to BFAR-CAR Regional Director Dr. Lilibeth L. Signey's message during the activity: "PAFES was institutionalized to synchronize agricultural plans and programs and orchestrate the activities of our stakeholders in each of the provinces to be prepared in the devolution transition process."</p> <p>During the program of turn-over of PAFES funds to LGU-Ifugao, Provincial Agriculturist Domingo Mariano welcomed everyone who attended and was present during the program followed by the Opening Message by PPDC Engr. Carmelita B. Buyuccan and a message shared from APCD Charlemagne Monayao. The PAFES overview and message were also shared by Maximo R. Aromin Jr. of ATI-CAR as a representative of Mr. Charlie Sagudan. He mentioned that the cheque was turned over on May 23, 2023, and he would like to thank again the Provincial Government of Ifugao for giving them a chance to formally award the PAFES fund. Also, he added the message of their director, Charlie C. Sagudan "We acknowledge that the fund was not that big but is a good amount to jumpstart the capacity building of the extension workers of Ifugao and hopeful that it will translate into a better agriculture and fishery extension in Ifugao". Another message follows shared by Dr. Lilibeth L. Signey. Ceremonial awarding of the PAFES fund check to the LGUs of Ifugao was also done headed by Hon. Jerry U. Dapilog. Above all, SP Member for Agriculture Hon. Albert D. Binlang Jr. made the closing remarks.</p> <p>The activity was conducted at Lagawe, Ifugao on June 1, 2023.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES	<p>CONSULTATION MEETING WITH PAFEC KEY STAKEHOLDER SEMESTER 1 AND ORIENTATION OF ATI FORMS</p> <p>On June 6, 2023, PAFES Implementation and Orientation of ATI Forms was conducted via Zoom by Mr. Maximo R. Aromin, Ms. Brandy L. Banda-ay, Ms. Cristine B. Esnara, Mr. Jomar T. Guerzon, and Ms. Maylene B. Moyamoy. During the discussion on the updates of the PAFES implementation, Kalinga was the first province that received its PAFES Fund. On May 16, 2023, Kalinga conducted their second quarter meeting with the following agenda: they reviewed and amended the organizational structure of the KPAFES, and assigned staff were also identified. During their meeting, it also tackled the training design preparation and responsible staff to prepare their training design, with the tentative schedule of their implementation. It also reported that their training management team was already contacting the ATI-RTC-CAR for the resource person that is available for their training. Their training design was already approved by the provincial governor during the Opening of the KPAFEC. While the other training designs are still being prepared and approved by the PMG chair. They also officially announced the successful opening of their KPAFEC center located on the first floor of the Kalinga Farmers Academy last June 6, 2023. Engr. Domingo Bakilan was also designated as the KPAFEC Center Director with the approval of the provincial Governor of Kalinga and PMG Chair.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES	<p>In addition, the PAFES Fund was awarded to Mountain Province as the second province. They carried out strategic planning for the technical support team and two orientations for the LGUs of its partners. Concerning their strategic planning, they also produced their mission, vision, objective, and activities plan. Their activity's output was added to the operations manual. They then held the launch of their MPAFEC. Following the launch, Mountain Province downloaded their money. They also introduced Dr. Rodelio Bagawi as the MPAFEC Officer in Charge. Additionally, on June 1, 2023, they held their first technical writing course, in which staff members from their partner LGUs throughout the province took part. They have included their tentative training program, which runs from June through September, in their updates.</p> <p>However, because of technical difficulties, Ms. Fidela gave the updates for the province of Benguet via the chat box. According to reports, the PAFES facility would open in CY 2023 near the TechnoDemo station in Wangal. Furthermore, the training plan was ready for the province governor to sign, the PPMP had already been produced, and the PAFES structure was being revised and will be completed in July 2023.</p> <p>For Apayao Updates, they will be conducting their PMG meeting on June 8, to revisit their Apayao PAFES with the 7 municipalities of Apayao, and during their meeting, they will be postponing their municipal management group meeting and orientation. They will also be revisiting their E.O. for the reform of their CPAFES. Furthermore, they announced the success of the fund transfer of the PAFES to their province during their Founders Day during May 17-18, 2023, at Calanasan. A portion of their training was previously authorized and scheduled for August execution under procurement. The three suggested technical training courses were also accepted. Their Project management and project proposal preparation training was also ongoing on its procurement, and it will be expected to be performed on June 20-22 at the Pagudpud Ilocos Norte, they are also looking for the Assistance of the ATI personnel for the aforementioned training report. Lastly, their instruction for socializing and communication is still under finalization.</p> <p>Ifugao updated that they received their cash on May 23 and have their ceremony on June 1, 2023. One of the highlights of the PMG meeting was the updating of their organizational Structure and they agreed that they will follow the Organizational Structure of the INAFES and conduct adjustments to the existing E.O. Moreover, they designated their IPAFES Focal person Mr. Steve Bacay and the F2C2 focal person Ms. Conny Valdes. They also submitted their work and financial plan which was accepted on May 30, 2023. While waiting for the approval of their Executive Order and they have not yet erected their PAFES center, for the interim they will not name any center director of their PAFES. They have 8 target training from July until they completely executed their training.</p> <p>After the briefing on the PAFES implementation of each province, Ms. Brandy Banda-ay orientated the ATI form and introduces the redesigned participants' form and resource person form. Clarification that arises and settled during the orientation includes; ATI-RTC-CAR requires the PLGU to use ATI-Forms including the Logo of the ATI-RTC-CAR and it was according to the ATI-central; some provinces use different Logo in their first conducted training and it was advised that the succeeding training, they must use the form that has been given to them of the ATI-RTC-CAR; the content and sequence of every Form must not be changed and dis arrange; some revised the form, and it was advice that they must follow the pattern of the form specified on the signatory part; if ever the participant got a low grade in both pre and posttest, it was advised that the trainer must be present during the conduct of the test and if the participant got higher or perfect grade the project officer will make an intervention on it.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES	<p>PAFES PROVINCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING</p> <p>ATI-RTC-CAR team travelled to Luna, Apayao for the conduct of PAFES PMG meeting. The session began on June 8, and Provincial Agriculturist Mr. Prudencio G. Bosing acknowledged the participants. Honorable Elmer R. Molina, SP for Agriculture, delivered the message, and Ms. Mae Kio-isen gave a presentation on the PAFES Operations Manual and Guidelines of the approved budget for 2023. Other</p> <p>The message was delivered by Hon. Elmer R. Molina the SP for Agriculture, Re-orientation on the PAFES Operations Manual and Guidelines of 2023 approved budget was presented by Ms. Mae Kio-isen. The PPDO led a discussion on the Executive Order No. 20 amendment and proposed structure, while Perilita A. Castillo presented the supported AFE interventions and activities under the 2023 PAFES budget. The PMG secretariats also conducted discussions on the identification of priority commodities and interventions for updating the CPAFEP</p> <p>During the presentation of the re-orientation of PAFES, the PPDO raised the question which says that "In the integration of the F2C2 with the PAFES what's the plan, since the F2C2 are fast that the farmers cannot cope up. We are asking that at the regional level or at the provincial level to centralize the programs or interventions?" with these Ms. Mae Kio-isen responds wherein she said that "We will consider that note sir, and as to the integration of the F2C2 and PAFES we are looking the PAFES as the umbrella wherein PAFES is macro level and F2C2 is at a micro level. That if we implement our program through the CPAFEP we will follow these clusters in F2C2 to centralize the direction of our programs." Meanwhile, During the presentation of the AFE activities, Ms. Perilita asked Mr. Maximino Aromin Jr. of ATI-CAR for a support staff to help them with the ATI forms on their first training on technical training at Pagudpod, Ilocos Sur. Some of the notable questions/concerns by Mr. Maximino R. Aromin and Ms. Perilita A. Castillo wherein Mr. Maximino ask that "May we ask if who are the resource persons invited in your trainings?" and Ms. Perilita A. Castillo responded that "We have sourced out externally on our first training", Ms. Perilita then asked a follow-up question wherein she said that "What if we have already executed all these trainings and there will be savings. Can it be used to conduct other trainings or extension activity?" and it was responded by Mr. Maximino which He said that "According to the central office of ATI, the saving can be used to propose for another trainings." The PA Mr. Prudencio Bosing also expressed his recommendation wherein He said that "We strongly recommend it be these trainings for CPD units." Then Maximino R. Aromin Jr. responded that "ATI is an accredited CPD provider it is easy for us to enroll trainings for CPD points. But in this case, since its LGUs will provide we will refer these to the CDM unit."</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES	<p>PAFES REORIENTATION FOR MANCOM MEMBERS OF PLGU APAYAO</p> <p>This was a request from PA Prudencio Bossing for he is not yet that confident to present the concept of PAFES and he wanted that the governor will be oriented by one that is adept on the topic, who is from DA-RFO-CAR or ATI-CAR.</p> <p>On June 19, 2023, at Amici Resort, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Dr. Virgie B. Tapat presented the PAFES concept in general and then zeroed in on some results of the rapid rural appraisal in Apayao. There were 3 highlighted results: 1. the ratio of AEW: farmer; 2. the percentage of allocated funds for the Agriculture and Fisheries sector; 3. the unfilled vacant positions in the office of agricultural services (both municipal and provincial level). Gov. Bulut said that E.O. 138, which is one of the legal bases of PAFES, is suspended and under review.</p> <p>The Governor then pleaded that they should be provided so that they will have a basis in pushing other municipalities of Apayao to observe the recommendation. He thanked the RPMD for their effort to explain the PAFES to him. He also lauded the commodity profiling being done by the OAS since it will become a basis for planning, so he wanted it to be expedited.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Staff Development	<p>ATI-CAR SPORTSFEST ACTIVITY</p> <p>Holding a sportsfest is one of the best actions a company can do to boost camaraderie among employees. Such activities promote unity and growth within the organization, as well as help the employees become more productive at work. It's essential to hold team-building activities occasionally, to develop oneness and unity among workers, as well as to get rid of the stress they might be feeling. It also promotes good values and keeps teams in high spirits. In addition, it shows employees that they are valued and appreciated by allowing them to bond with each other and engage in physical activities to improve their overall well-being.</p> <p>Under the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 8, s. 2021 dated March 7, 2011, re: Reiteration of the Physical Fitness Program "Great Filipino Workout", the ATI-RTC-CAR facilitated a sportsfest activity that aims to promote and developed a healthy and alert workforce. Moreover, this activity is in preparation for the upcoming Inter-cluster Sportsfest activity participated by regions I, II, III, and CAR on June 16-19, 2023. Training Center Director Charlie C. Sagudan expressed in his opening remarks his excitement for the whole day's activity and encouraged everyone to participate and enjoy every game. The sports include basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Scrabble, Chess, and Darts.</p> <p>The ATI-RTC-CAR team participated in the Sportsfest event, which was held on June 2, 2023, at the BSU Gymnasium in La Trinidad, Benguet.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	AFE RBME Survey	<p>6TH AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXTENSION RESULTS-BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION SURVEY: AFE RBMES</p> <p>The AFE RBME Survey serves as a crucial tool for assessing the outcomes of various interventions, including policies, programs, and projects of ATI. By addressing the fundamental question of "so what," this survey effectively meets the rising demands for results that align with the needs of the Institute's clients and stakeholders. The valuable information gathered through this survey will enable ATI management and program implementers to make better-informed decisions based on evidence, fostering continuous improvement and reforms in the implementation of extension services within the region.</p> <p>Before the conduct of the survey, communication letters were sent to respective municipalities with the targeted sample population. The interview was administered to respondents in the municipalities of. In strict adherence to safety and health protocols, and to ensure the timely facilitation of evaluation activities, the team sought assistance from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO). Their invaluable support included locating and coordinating with the participants residing within their jurisdiction, thereby streamlining the survey process. To gather comprehensive data, both face-to-face individual interviews and panel group discussions were conducted.</p> <p>Before the conduct of the interview, the team first explained the objectives of the RBME and secured the respondents' consent and assured that all information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality in conformance with RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012. To facilitate the collection of substantial data, each question and information needed were thoroughly explained by the facilitators and translated into the local dialect as needed. Some questions needed further probing. This allowed the farmer-respondents to share what other agricultural technologies or practices they could apply that were not included in the questionnaire.</p> <p>During the interviews, the survey team provided participants with promotional materials on agricultural advancements and snacks as a gesture of appreciation, fostering a positive rapport and contributing to the overall success of the data collection process. The following training was attended by the respondents: Training of Trainers on Modernized Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization; Enhancement Course on Inbred Rice Seed Production for Seed Growers; Coaching on Basic Marketing for CRA Beneficiaries of Ableg, Pasil, Kalinga (Principles of Marketing with Support Intervention); Coaching/Training on Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service for Agriculture Extension Workers of CAR.</p> <p>The survey was conducted on June 5-9, 2023, at Kiangnan and Alfonso Lista of Ifugao, and Tabuk City, Rizal, Pasil of Kalinga.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Orientation	<p>ORIENTATION ON THE PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES OF ATI-RTC-CAR TO BSU INTERNS</p> <p>Orientation embarks numerous importance. It is the introduction towards gaining the basic information of an organization as well as the vision, mission, and goal thus, the encouragement body to uplift thus challenge newcomers. Consequently, an opportunity to learn to build better connections and relationships towards a harmonious environment. The Orientation on the Programs/ Projects/ Activities of ATI-RTC-CAR to BSU Interns was headed by Mr. Charlie Sagudan, ATI-RTC-CAR Center Director. It was conducted at Sab-atan Hall, ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compd., La Trinidad, Benguet, on June 5, 2023.</p> <p>It was instituted by an opening remark embodying acknowledgment and gratitude thus the willingness of the institution to accept the BSU Interns. Further, one of its highlights was the inspirational quotation iterated by Mr. Charlie Sagudan, "The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step" as the intern better understands the real world of extension. He also stated that in the SOA Evaluation, the intern will take part in their task that will commemorate at Abra.</p> <p>Furthermore, a briefing on the functions, Programs, and Activities of ATI was given by Mr. Bongbong L. Buli-e, ATI-RTC-CAR MIPS II that included, ATI as one bureau of the DA, Mandates of ATI under EO 116, s. 1987, Scope of Agriculture and Fisheries roles of ATI as specified in AFMA, Area coverage: CAR with six provinces, 75 municipalities, 2 cities, Clienteles: AEWs and its clienteles, Farmers and Organized Farmer groups/RBOs, Thematic Programs following the LEADS.</p> <p>After the briefing, Mr. Jamesly Andres, BSU Interns Adviser emphasized their gratitude towards ATI-RTC-CAR for responding to the intern program of BSU and thus explained that the early birds will be accommodated by the ATI-RTC-CAR while the rest can be deployed to the office of the Provincial Agriculture. Lastly, reminded of the duties and responsibilities of the interns as they will be evaluated based on their performance.</p> <p>As part of the orientation, the interns were also introduced to each Section and Unit of the Center.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	ATI-RTC-CAR TCD INVOLVEMENT	<p>TO SERVE AS GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER IN THE 5TH MUNICIPAL RBO CONGRESS IN ASIPULO, IFUGAO</p> <p>On June 6, 2023, the LGU of Asipulo, Ifugao conducted the activity with the theme "Bringing innovation and development in Agriculture and Fisheries through RBOs and ATI-RTC-CAR Center Director Mr. Charlie Sagudan served as the guest of honor and speaker. The government agencies that were present during the congress are the BFAR-CAR, PLGU-Ifugao, POIC, and DA-AFRO through APCO.</p> <p>After the opening program, it was followed by a skills competition and agricultural products display by the RBO organizations. During the sharing of the message, the team centered its message to the participants on how important RBO organizations in Agri-fishery development is. Also, the current challenges in agriculture were presented like aging farmers, declining agricultural areas, dwindling water resources, transboundary pests, and diseases, globalization, and others. These current challenges make the RBOs vital partners in providing mechanisms for a responsive Agri-fishery industry. ATIs learning site for Agriculture was likewise discussed as the area where the RBOs can engage more with Acapulco's landscape. Agri-tourism, nature tourism, and culture tourism can be potential projects. The RBOs can also be engaged through the MLGUs, DA, ATI, and other developmental agencies.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Blessing and Inauguration of Cold Storage in Buguias, Benguet	<p>PARTICIPATION ON THE BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF COLD STORAGE IN BUGUIAS, BENGUET</p> <p>On June 21, 2023, TCD Charlie C. Sagudan and Jordan B. Pilay joined the DA-ATI delegation led by Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter to Abatan, Buguias, Benguet for the Inauguration of Cold Storage in Buguias, Benguet. Representatives from other DA-ATI- RTCs were also present.</p> <p>The overview of the project was presented by Seiya "Yoshi" Yoshida. After the overview, the participants proceeded to the Cold Storage for the Inauguration, cutting of ribbon, and unveiling of marker led by the officials.</p> <p>Various agencies and stakeholders participated in the activity.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	ATI-Luzon Cluster A Inter-Center Sportsfest 2023	<p>ATI-LUZON CLUSTER A INTER-CENTER SPORTSFEST 2023</p> <p>The idea of conducting the Inter-Center Sportsfest was agreed upon by different ATI Regional Training Center Directors for the ATI staff to gather, have fun, and bond together through sports and other engaging activities. Hence, the idea came to life as ATI-Luzon Cluster A held the first batch of the very first Inter-Center Sportsfest of the Agricultural Training Institute where ATI-RTC-CAR served as the host. The representatives coming from ATI-RTC I, ATI-RTC II, and ATI-RTC III, with ATI Director IV Ms. Remelyn R. Recoter accompanied by other four guests from ATI Central Office arrived on June 16 at ATI-RTC-CAR to officially launch the activity.</p> <p>On June 16-18, 2023, the representatives from different RTCs had a competition on different fields of sports and parlor games but only one RTC will be hailed as a champion. RTC I got the following champion titles namely: Badminton Men's Singles, Charades, both Chess Men's and Women's Division, Scrabble and Volleyball Men's Division, and the Mr. and Ms. ATI-Luzon Cluster A Inter-Center Sportsfest 2023 of the pageant portion. While RTC II got the following champion titles namely: Badminton Women's Single, Volleyball and Basketball Women's Division, both Darts Men's and Women's Division, Table Tennis Mix Doubles and Men's Division, and the Cheering competition. Moreover, RTC III garnered the championship title in Basketball Men's Division. On the other hand, the RTC CAR garnered the following champion titles namely: Badminton Mixed Doubles Division, Pass the Message, Pinoy Henyo, and Table Tennis and Scrabble Women's Division,</p> <p>Overall, the Champion for the Inter-Center Sportsfest Luzon Cluster A 2023 is Region I garnered a score of 152 points, followed by Region II with a total score of 150 points, next to them is Region CAR scoring a total of 139, and Region III with a score of 122 points.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Workshop	<p>WORKSHOP ON REVIEW AND FINALIZATION OF SWINE HOUSING AND FACILITY DESIGN OF THE INSPIRE PROGRAM BEING IMPLEMENTED BY ATI CENTERS</p> <p>To mitigate the adverse effect of African Swine Fever (ASF), the Department of Agriculture thru the National Livestock Program (NLP) launched the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program. The Program aims to repopulate and revive the hog industry in the country by allotting and distributing funds to the ATI-RTCs for the construction and procurement of swine facilities, equipment, and swine. However, the implementation of the Program has been hampered due to problems encountered during the implementation. To address these problems, the ATI-ITCPH conducted the activity entitled "Workshop on review and finalization of swine housing and facility design of the INSPIRE Program being implemented by ATI centers".</p> <p>Day one of the activities was lectures on the important aspects of swine housing and biosecurity in the swine housing facility. In addition, topics about site and building planning, zoning, sanitation, environmental permits/certificates, use of environmental control devices and equipment and pen construction, swine housing equipment, and tools were discussed. After the lectures, an open forum was conducted for the participants' comments and suggestions on the existing plans distributed to the ATI-RTCs.</p> <p>Day two of the activity was site visit of the existing ATI-ITCPH swine multiplier farm and artificial insemination facility. During the site visit, bio-security protocols were observed all things to be brought inside the farm compound housing the swine facilities must be sterilized using UV light, and participants and farm personnel are required to take a shower and change to scrub suits and wear safety boots before entering the compound of the swine facilities, the compound has facilities for 5 sow level swine multiplier, 30 sow level swine multiplier and 60 sow level swine multiplier farms. Day three of the activity is the preparation of revised plans and estimates for the Swine Artificial Insemination sa Barangay (SWAIB) Project and 30 Sow Level Swine Multiplier Farm incorporating the comments and suggestions, observations during the site visit to multiplier farms and SWAIB facilities.</p> <p>Day four is the presentation of outputs on the revised plans and estimates of the two swine facilities. For the SWAIB Program, there is a minimal revision of the plans. The cost estimates for the project cost will depend on the prices of the local materials. For the 30 Sow Level Swine Multiplier Farm, the revised plans were presented along with the details of the revision, however, the design of the facility at ATI-ITCPH is recommended to be followed as it is best suited for the controlled environment design. The total project cost will depend on the materials and equipment prices in the locality and suppliers.</p> <p>The activity was done on June 6-9, 2023 and was conducted in Lipa City Batangas.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Monitoring	<p>FIELD MONITORING ON THE STATUS OF LSAS IN KIANGAN AND LAMUT, IFUGAO</p> <p>On June 15-16, 2023, Ms. Cristine B. Esnara and Mr. Carevem Bayawa travelled to Lamut, Ifugao to conduct TOT on PNS Code of GAP for the production of Cacao Beans and Processing of Tablea. Also, they conducted field monitoring activities to nearby learning sites and the result were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Aquilina Sagulof's Farm<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Have lots of cacao trees for pruning. Vegetables such as eggplants, siling panigang, tomatoes and others were planted. Other components such as seedling production, mushroom production, vermicomposting, and organic swine are being raised. There are also additional facilities added such as receiving cottage, processing area, composting, and seedling nurseries. All these were being used by their students as TESDA Farm School.➢ Two interns under Organic Internship Program also assist in the operation of the farm. They were given swine to raise and given areas and daily tasks to perform on the farm.➢ She was reminded on her submission of semestral reports as well as the scheduled Benchmarking activity for LSAs this July 2023.➤ Dee Bees Farm<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Maintaining the production of various lowland vegetables such as sili, eggplant, tomatoes, squash fruit bearing trees such as coffee, pomelo, durian, and ornamentals for sale in the local market and displayed on their store.➢ Assisting the Organic practitioners in Ifugao in their documents and compliance with the PGS, where they will be inspected this July.➢ Processed their own harvested coffee berries and durian and sold in their store, which according to her, very saleable➢ Reminded on her submission of semestral reports and their participation to the 2nd batch of Training on benchmarking of LSAs from Ifugao, Kalinga and Apayao, scheduled this July 2023.➤ Villafuerte Camat Integrated Farm<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ The sanitation was highly maintained. Various vegetables such as eggplants, siling panigang, upland kankong, gabi, squash and others were planted with layout. Other components such as seedling production, grasses, rice, vermicomposting and Organic swine, rabbits, poultry, and goats are being raised. There are also additional facilities added for use in the conduct of training on AOP NC II funded by TESDA Ifugao. Accordingly, they just finished the 2 batches of OAP NC II this June and are ready for the next slots from TESDA.➢ The fishpond was covered since the water was contaminated already. They intend to put an additional composting facility funded by BSWM. <p>Two interns under Organic Internship Program also assist in the operation of the farm. During the visit, the 2 interns were invited to demonstrate how to make silage at the GOTAD celebration held in Lagawe, Ifugao.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Workshop	<p>WORKSHOP ON THE CRAFTING OF THE INSTITUTE'S THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT 2024-2026</p> <p>This four-day activity was attended by Ms. Cristine B. Esnara of the PAS Section, Mr. Randy T. Soriano of the CDMS Section, and Mr. Adrian Chris P. Velasco of ISS Section from ATI-RTC-CAR on June 19-22, 2023, at PCC, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija.</p> <p>The first day was the opening program where ATI Director Remelyn Recoter delivered her message. She stressed that the Three-Year Development Plan should not be business as usual but RTCs are encouraged to consider how do you envision or see ATI in the next three years, have an agricultural profile of their region, come up with realistic plans/programs/innovations that would cater to the changing times (location specific per region) that are supported by data, and to package a Three-Year Development Plan as a wholistic program. And that ATI interventions are not stand alone where partnership with other agencies is necessary like CHED, DepEd, TESDA, DOT, and DTI (Gulayan sa Paaralan, Gulayan sa Barangay, Farm School, AgriTourism) to name a few.</p> <p>On the second day, the ATI Corporate Plan 2023-2028 was tackled as it serves as a guide/road map of ATI for the six-year development period that was anchored on national and sectoral thrusts and directions. Aside from ATI Corporate Plan, PAFES Orientation and the 2024 ATI Budget were also discussed in preparation for the 2025 budget process.</p> <p>The first part of the workshop has begun to be presented by Batch 1 (PPD, CDMD, ISD from ATI-CO) followed by Batch 2 (PAD, AFU-OD, ITCPH). The presentation was decided via draw lots and there will be an open forum for every three presenters. After the presentations, ATI-RTC-CAR representatives distributed the ATI-RTC-CAR 2022 Annual Report. All the RTCs including ITCPH, the Office of the Director and the Office of the Assistant Director, and the PPD, PAD, CDMD, and ISD were given one copy each of the ATI-RTC-CAR 2022 Annual Report. One copy was also provided to the ATI Library through the ISD.</p> <p>The following day is the continuation of the workshop. Batch 3 was asked to present namely: RTC 3, Eastern Visayas; RTC 2 CARAGA; RTC Central Visayas, RTC2; RTC 5; RTC 11 (Davao); RTC 10 (Northern Mindanao); RTC 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula); RTC 4A CALABARZON; and RTC 4B MIMAROPA. And on the last day, the last batch composed of Western Visayas, CAR, and SOCKSARGEN presented their piece. After all the presentations, the management shared their input. To mention a few of their inputs, Director Recoter suggests exploring the possibility of the "green climate farm" for LSA which can be proposed under the green climate fund. From Assistant Director Arceo to add start-up projects for the youth towards agripreneurship (not necessarily ATI funded, we can also connect them with funding agencies such as with the DA through the Young Farmers Challenge). Lastly, CDMD E. Vinuya to include how CAR will sustain the CBF project in the development plan.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Re-echo on the attended workshop on the Crafting of the Institute's Three-Year Development 2024-2026 and finalization of plans	<p>RE-ECHO ON THE ATTENDED WORKSHOP ON THE CRAFTING OF THE INSTITUTE'S THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT 2024-2026 AND FINALIZATION OF PLANS</p> <p>A three-year plan that will guide operating units in delivering services to extension clients is being developed by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), following the strategic policies of the Department of Agriculture (DA). The ATI's development plan for 2024 to 2026 included programs, projects, and activities geared towards food security, sufficiency, and affordability, and for a strong agricultural value chain.</p> <p>This half-day activity undertaken provided feedback on the discussions and agreements made during the conduct of workshop in the Crafting of the Institute's Three-Year Development 2024-2026 conducted last June 19-22, 2023 at the Philippine Carabao Center in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Ms. Cristina B. Esnara, PAS Head, presented the tips inputted by ATI Director Remelyn Recoter and Deputy Director Antonieta J. Arceo.</p> <p>Action needed: ATI-RTC-CAR Focal person to submit firmed-up plans based on the suggestions and inputs provided.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Studies (Extension Support to Mt. Province as among the 22 provinces with highest Poverty Incidence in the Philippines (T2-ES22PPP))	<p>ORIENTATION ON THE EVALUATION OF THE EXTENSION SUPPORT TO MT. PROVINCE AS AMONG THE 22 PROVINCES WITH HIGHEST POVERTY INCIDENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES (T2-ES22PPP)</p> <p>The orientation was conducted at the 4-H conference hall ATI-RTC-CAR on June 27, 2023. The participants were the PPDO of Mt. Province, OMAG- Mt. Province, OPABE of Mt. Province, and PAGO-Mt. Province. It started at 9:30 AM and was adjourned at 4:40 PM. Part of the activity agenda was the presentation of the updates on the TIER II Implementation in Natonin and Paracelis by the MLGU staff of both municipalities. Ms. Leticia F. Dacawa, Agriculturist II, OPABE, presented the updates for Paracelis and for Natonin updates were the following presented by Ms. Lilia B. Lamfayong, Municipal Agriculturist, Natonin, Mt. Province.</p> <p>After the updates were the review of the drafted questionnaire and discussion of the timetable. Part of the orientation was the review of the drafted questionnaire based on the objectives of the evaluation study. Following a comprehensive review, the team then talked about the schedule for carrying out the evaluation study.</p> <p>The activity ended with the following agreements: (1) Possible visit to ANONAT for documentation (success story of the group), (2) Monitor/Re-visit the agreement on the use and maintenance of the coffee processing center and/or processing facilities, (3) Re-visit the MOA and draft summary of responsibility each stakeholder, (4) Draft monitoring team composition and responsibilities provided under existing agreements/MOA, (5) Preparation of updated financial books/record of beneficiaries for timely collection of data/data gathering to be done by the MLGU and Farmer Organization/Cooperative, (6) Data collection, analysis, and packaging of the evaluation study will be conducted by ATI-CAR; LGU will be tapped for logistics e.g., coordination of farmer beneficiaries, determine venue, RFQ for meals, (7) Data gathering tool to be polish by ATI-CAR and forwarded to PLGU and MLGU (for comment), (8) Identification of sample size population on/or before July to done by ATI-CAR, (9) MLGU to provide the list of beneficiaries (initial beneficiaries) to done by the MLGU, (10) Roll-over scheme (see MOA, on the identification of the next beneficiaries for roll-over) ATI-CAR to provide feedback.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Cluster Rice Technology Transfer Workshop	<p>CLUSTER RICE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKSHOP</p> <p>On June 27–28, 2023 Ms. Resley Ann Sumedca attended the workshop at Isabela Convention Center, Cauayan City, Isabela. The four-point strategy of the Masagana Rice Program was highlighted during the workshop. The first point strategy is the MATATAG (Resilience and stability in climate change adaptation), to motivate farmers to optimize yield, mitigate risk, reduce losses, and increase resilience. Second is the SAMA-SAMA (Unity and Convergence in Farm Clustering and Consolidation), to create some 14K hybrid rice clusters and 9,400 inbred clusters yield 10t/ha and 8t/ha, respectively. Third is the GANADO (Motivated and Enthusiastic Farmer Entrepreneurs in the Value Chain), to expand farmers' participation in the value chain, both as cultivators and commercial contributors, thru a holistic approach (agri production, Agri biz, and agro-industrialization). Lastly, the NAPAPANAHON (Timeliness and Relevant Focus on Digital Transformation) was tackled during the session, to facilitate farmers' and other stakeholders' access to services and information, minimize transaction costs, and ensure satisfactory extension of services and interventions.</p> <p>TEKTOK SESSIONS</p> <p>The "Tektok" (Technology Talk) event commenced with an informative presentation by PhilRice, led by a PhilRice representative, sharing insights on the "OK and 40 sa Angkop na Variety." Following this, Mr. Ondap from the Rice Board delved into the fascinating realm of "Hybrid Technology." Mr. Baltagan, also from PhilRice, discussed the innovative technique of "Sa AWD, Tipid!" Furthermore, Mr. Intal, representing the Rice Board, shared valuable information on "Microbial Biofertilizers." Continuing the series of enlightening talks, Mr. Agudong provided an engaging discussion on "Sa Tamang Sustansya, Mas Mataas ang Kita."</p> <p>Throughout the event, participants were introduced to various decision-support tools aimed at improving agricultural practices. DA-BPI presented an informative session on "Pest and Disease Risk Identification Management," offering valuable insights and strategies. Overall, the Tektok event provided an invaluable platform for knowledge-sharing and exploration of various technologies, fostering innovation and advancement in the field of agriculture.</p> <p>TEKNO TIANGE</p> <p>The Tekno Tiange was participated by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and its affiliated agencies, including the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice). In addition to these government organizations, several reputable seed companies also took part in the event to showcase their finest products specifically designed for rice farming.</p> <p>The event served as a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing between government agencies, seed companies, and farmers. It fostered an environment of innovation and exchange, promoting the adoption of modern agricultural practices and contributing to the continuous development of the rice farming sector in the Philippines.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR (Trainings Attended by ATI-RTC-CAR Staff)	<p>NATIONAL TRAININGS OF TRAINERS ON CORN CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Farm clustering and consolidation is one of the eight paradigms under the "new thinking for Philippine Agriculture advocated by the Department of Agriculture (DA) since August 2019 and was institutionalized under the Food Security Development Framework. In 2020, the Department of Agriculture vigorously pushed farm clustering and consolidation as one of the key strategies to level up the Philippine Agriculture sector. Farmers' Cooperative and Associations (FCAS) were convinced to organize themselves to optimize the interventions and assistance provided by the government. Easier and most efficient and effective for the Department to deal with such, than individual farmers in providing training, technologies, and inputs.</p> <p>This training was conducted to capacitate corn coordinators in the regions for them to be able to develop competencies of AEWs in their regions to help identify and assist prospective cluster farms. The training covered five modules namely, Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation Program, Types of Organization, Features and Benefits, Farm Clustering, Financial Management, and Presenting with Clarity and Confidence.</p> <p>In addition, the activity was attended by Mr. Edwin C. Dickson, Agriculturist II and Ms. Vicky May L. Guinayen, Training Specialist I held at Ninomg's Hotel, Legaspi City Albay from May 28 to June 2, 2023.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR (Trainings Attended by ATI-RTC-CAR Staff)	<p>RISK MANAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVE ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS, June 7-9, 2023</p> <p>The activity was called by Central Office through a Memo #M23-06-535 inviting all Lead Auditors and Assistance Center Directors of all the ATI-Regional Offices for a training on Risk Management and Effective Root Cause Analysis. Mr. Erik D. Santos of TUV-SUD served as the Resource Person of the Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Definition of Risk, Risk Management and Risk Management Plan○ Understanding the Concepts of Managing Risk and Sources of Risk○ Analyzing and Evaluating a Risk Management○ Conduct of Root Cause Analysis○ Tools to be used in Monitoring and Evaluation of Risk• Agreements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ATI-CO to revise the Risk Assessment Plan as recommended by the Resource Person.○ Centers to have their own SWOT and should be one of the documented types of information. <p>Attended by Mr. Bongbong L. Bull-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)	Symposium on CPD and CPDAS Updates	<p>SYMPOSIUM ON CPD AND CPDAS UPDATES FOR CPD PROVIDERS, AIPOS/APOS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS</p> <p>A symposium on CPD Updates was conducted on June 21, 2023, at Ritz Hotel, Legarda Road, Baguio City and Ms. Jam Balingan, ATI-RTC-CAR Training Specialist III, participated in the activity. The terms and concepts of RA 10912, "Continuing Professional Development" (CPD) Act of 2016 were discussed, and a link was shared where you can view the accredited CPD Programs of the Accredited CPD Providers.</p> <p>There are other activities to earn CPD Credit Units such as Formal Learning refers to educational arrangements such as curricular qualifications and teaching-learning requirements that take place in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Another is Non-Formal Learning refers to learning that has been acquired in addition or alternatively to formal learning, which may be structured and made more flexible according to educational and training arrangements. Lastly, Informal Learning refers to learning that occurs in daily life assessed through the recognition, validation, and accreditation processes and which can contribute to a qualification.</p> <p>Further, the details and documentary requirements on how to earn CPD Credit Units are presented in PRC Res. No. 1240 s. 2020, PRC Res. 1244 s.2020 and PRC Res. 1278 s. 2020. And only a maximum of 30% SDL CPD Units (Non-Formal activities) of the total required for compliance may be credited for renewal of the PIC (PRC Res. No. 1197, s. 2019).</p> <p>Moreover, the CPD for COVID-19 Frontliners and Volunteers, the PRC Res. No. 1239 s. 2020 provides that all Health and Emergency Frontliner and Volunteer Professionals who offered services during this COVID-19 crisis may be granted a maximum of 45 to 25 CPD Credit Units respectively. As for accreditation under PRC Res. No. 1239, s. 2020, the application fee is waived.</p> <p>The following were also mentioned during the symposium: Requirements of Application as CPD Provider; Use of Account as Provider; Application of Program Accreditation by Accredited Provider; Status of Application; Using the CPDAS; Common Issues Encountered in the CPDAS; and Frequently Asked Questions on CPDAS.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP)	<p>ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY (EPAHP) 2ND QUARTER REGIONAL CONVERGENCE TEAM MEETING</p> <p>The meeting was held on June 22, 2023, at Lafayette Luxury Suites, #1 Loakan Road, Baguio City with Ms. Jan R. Balingan as representative.</p> <p>The proceedings of the meeting were as follows: one of the agenda is the RCT 1st Semester Accomplishment. It was agreed to accomplish the data gathering template for EPAHP's Baseline Data and to provide the data once it's available (2020-2022). As for the RCT Resolution No. 1 agenda, representatives of the participants will be sent out for the signing of their respective RDs. For the CBO Database Updates agenda, 33 CBOs are prioritized to attend capability-building training, assistance, and validation.</p> <p>Renewal of the Regional MOU was also tackled as one of the agenda, where it was agreed to submit Monthly reports (Training conducted to CBO, Sales, List of linked CBOs) to EPAHP by partner agencies on the 10th day of the following month, but if it falls on weekends or a holiday, the report should be submitted on the day before the weekend or holiday. In addition, prepare official communication together with MOU and include a link (google sheet) for suggestions and recommendations and that all agencies (supply, demand, and support) be included in the access of data. Include DAR and DA in commitments and Obligations in MOU where all available resources (logistics and financial) can be shared in the convergence initiative. Furthermore, Know All Men is to be replaced with "Know All Persons" to be gender inclusive. The MOU will be for RCT and the MOU with PLGUs will be done separately. And a soft copy is to be emailed to partner agencies, to include the form. Agencies without comment should still indicate "no comment" to know the agencies that need to follow up.</p> <p>CBOs Training Needs and Support Needs agenda agreed to consider training needs by RCTs in their planning in the succeeding years. The CBO Conference agenda is to be conducted on July 4-7, 2023, at Plaza Garden Hotel and Residences where RCT partners may provide IEC materials, and tokens for RPs. Lastly, other matters include orientation on Autonomy and exploring the possibility of the CBOs Summit.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Evaluation and Planning	<p>CORCAARRD MID-YEAR EVALUATION AND PLANNING FOR CONSORTIUM-LED PROJECTS AND OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, June 28-30, 2023, San Fernando, La Union</p> <p>The activity was conducted by the CorCAARRD Secretariat to evaluate the accomplishment of the consortium's operations for the 1st Semester at the same to review the status of consortium's led-projects. Said activity was participated by the Consortium Secretariat and project leaders. The ATI-CAR's involvement is being with the Secretariat as the Techno transfer cluster Coordinator.</p> <p>As outputs of the activity, Dr. Janet Pablo, Consortium Director reiterated the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accomplishments from January to June – IPCR and DPCR 2. IPCR and DPCR for July to December 2023 to include undone 1st sem targets 3. Harmonize cluster activities 4. Accomplishment of Consortium-led R&D <p>Attended by Ms. Jala Sagpa-ey.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Validation and Monitoring	<p>FIELD MONITORING</p> <p>VLSAs and FARM FAMILIES in Alfonso Lista, Ifugao</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Conducted brief meeting with the MA to verify if the 3 farm family applicants are indeed farmers of the municipality, since field validation cannot be conducted for they are currently attending training at the Center. Accordingly, the 3 applicants are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bernabe Chimmar – Sitio Kabuluan, San Quintin, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao- Mr. James Lagahe – Sitio Sta. Maria, Gaddang Village, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao- Florentino Tam-ao – Namnama, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao➤ For the VLSA – site is being utilized as production and training/meeting venue of the members. <p>VALIDATION of LSAs and MONITORING of CUAMFs in Tabuk City, Kalinga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Canaan Organic Farmers Agricultural Cooperative<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The farm is owned by the Cooperative; however, it is being operated by Mr. John Jeb Constancio. Further, the said cooperative will soon be beneficiary of the INSPIRE project of the DA. Thus, not qualified for community urban garden.➤ Calagdao Organic Association, Inc.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ According to the farm in-charge, they will still establish their organic garden. What they have at the moment is 100+ hectares farm. It is planted with various crops such as mango, corn, vegetables. Ms. Esnara explained what is LSA and CUAMF to them. They were advised by Ms. Esnara to establish their farm, follow what is being thought during their PGS training conducted by Mr. Edwin Dickson. If possible, they should apply for GAP certification for the non-organic areas. As for the current status of the farm, they are not yet qualified.➤ Golden Field Farms (LSA applicant) – owned by Ms. Grace Agtina of San Juan, Tabuk City, Kalinga<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 3.5 hectares farm composed of landscape ornamentals, fish ponds, fruit trees and vegetable production○ Good practices focused on asexual propagation of African Talisay (green and variegated), philodendron, and other ever green plants○ Existing facilities – training halls, lodging, CRs, holding area, swimming pools, landscape gardens for wedding receptions, farm house, display area



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)	
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Validation and Monitoring	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply for GAP certification ○ Apply for RSBSA ○ Conduct 5S in the production area ○ Signages installation <p>📌 Richard Wagsingan of Tuga, Tabuk City (LSA applicant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farm is planted with various fruit bearing trees and under it were ornamentals, pineapples, and others <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct 5S in farming – farm sanitation ○ Practice pruning to some of the fruit bearing trees, very crowded ○ Prioritize crops ○ Apply for GAP certification ○ Apply for RSBS <p>MONITORING ON THE STATUS OF CUAMFS</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Laya West RIC</p> <p>During the validation, they reported they already had a MOA with the Laya West Elementary School Principal to operate the 1000m² land (at the back of the school) for at least 5 years. They had planted it with squash, bean, sweet potato, etc. The members already transferred the temporary shed, seedling nursery, and soon to transfer all the landscape materials such as bottles, stones bamboo sticks, etc. on the new site. As for the fund provided, the president said that they were not able to spend all the amount and they're requesting that they be allowed to use it for the development of their garden this year. Ms. Esnara requested for them to submit initial liquidation and put remarks on the remaining fund to be utilized this year. They were also encouraged to continue their gardening, keeping records of all activities, strengthen their organization, make the garden as source of food and income and share if there is surplus. Ms. Esnara also asked to keep in touch with MLGU Tabuk and ATI. They were also informed of the next activities that is the training and summit and CUAMF contest at the end of the semester.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Suyang RIC</p> <p>As for the fund provided, the president also said that they were not able to spend all the amount. They're requesting that they be allowed to use it for the development of their garden this year. Just like the Laya West RIC, Ms. Esnara requested them to submit initial liquidation and put remarks on the remaining fund to be utilized this year, noted by the Focal Person. They were also encouraged to continue their gardening, keeping records of all activities, strengthen their organization, make the garden as source of food and income and share if there is surplus. Ms. Esnara also asked to keep in touch with MLGU Tabuk and ATI. They were also informed of the next activities that is the training and summit and CUAMF contest at the end of the semester.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Validation and Monitoring	<p>MONITORING OF LSAs</p> <p>a. Puputi Nature Farm. The meeting with Mr. Larry Puputi was very brief, together with the Municipal Agriculturist, Ms. Vicky Lagmay. The short meeting was intended for the liquidation of the interventions provided for the establishment of the Village Learning Site. The liquidation report was prepared and submitted by the proponents and approved by the Municipal Agriculturist. According to Mr. Puputi, the person in-charge of the holding area died due to accident, though the lodging area was being used during the trainings they are conducting. For the lodging, processing and marketing, it is not yet totally being utilized since there are still needed facilities to be procured.</p> <p>b. Maquera Farm. Mr. Henry Maquera was that they just received their certification as TESDA Farm School and currently completing all the documents being required by the agency so that they will be given slot of trainings funded by TESDA. Further, the INSPIRE project amounting to 5.5M for Swine multiplier is being established in the Maquera's Farm for the LOPA, since it is the only farm qualified for the project. Ms. Esnara reminded him of the semestral report to be submitted before the end of the semester.</p> <p>c. Revelyn Duldulao's Farm. The group visited the Revelyn Duldulao's Farm to monitoring the status of the calamity fund/intervention (100,000) provided last year. Based on the status, they were able to elevate the sheep house using concreted posts to make it stronger, installed fences all around the farm, established free range chicken layering house, farm house, composting site. She explained why they did not push through in transferring the sheep house to the other side of the farm – the need to use chemical for rice production near the proposed area. Thus, they opted to just make the house sheep stronger.</p> <p>Currently, the farm has planted forages for the sheep and goats, corn both for animals and human consumption, various vegetables, melons. All their produced were being sold in the community. During rainy season, they make pellets for their animals. According to Mrs. Duldulao, they just finished training on agri crop production funded by TESDA and waiting for the next slot. They were able to request and granted additional greenhouse for their vegetable production, supposed to be for San Quintin organization but they were not using it.</p> <p>VALIDATION</p> <p>d. Aty. Ranville D. Albano. The farm is located in Dagupan, Luna, Apayao. It is a 5.5 hectares farm planted with various fruit crops, rice, sheep rearing, fishponds and vegetables. Mr. Albano is 66 years, reason that he let his son Aty Ranville Albano to apply. However, both of them are working in the government. As per validation, although it is integrated farm, it is not yet ready for endorsement.</p> <p>e. Rafael D. Crisologo. Mr. Crisologo is 56 years old and currently Councilor of Pudtol, Apayao. He has 7.5 hectares allotted for animal rearing, rice field, vegetable production, corn, swimming pools, and farm house. Accordingly, he is very much interested to become a farmer extensionist as he wants to share his farming experiences</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Monitoring	<p>MONITOR STATUS OF SWINE MULTIPLIER PROJECT</p> <p>Brief meeting was done at the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist of Luna, Mr. Julius Casil to clarify some issues in the MOA and on the design of the project. Both parties reviewed the design and agreed as to what to remove like the laboratory, etc. after explaining about the fund that needs to be obligated by June, it was then agreed that MOA should be signed by Mayor on the weekend and to be brought to ATI so that Engr. Windel Baatan will bring it to ITCPH for signature of Dr. Ruth Sonaco.</p> <p>The group also agreed to initially schedule the soft launching of the activity on the same week celebration of the Gong relay and MOA signing of the LGU led Hybrid seed production that is on June 13-15, 2023.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Monitoring	<p>RICE PROGRAM FIELD MONITORING AT SABLAN BENGUET</p> <p>The field monitoring was conducted at Sablan, Benguet for the Field validation of Mr. Cymer V. Langwas on May 30, 2023. The Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) is an exceptional farm that stands out from others in the area due to its utilization of modern agricultural technologies and effective farming strategies, resulting in highly successful operations. It serves as a model for other farmers, showcasing innovative techniques and practices. The farm, owned by Mr. Cymer V. Langwas and his family, demonstrates a level of advancement that surpasses that of neighboring farmers. One noteworthy aspect of the LSA is the thriving agri-processing enterprise owned by a processor who may not necessarily be a farmer. This enterprise adds value to the farm's produce and contributes to the operation's overall success. The LSA serves multiple purposes as a practical, hands-on learning and training area. It also provides a destination for visits by farmers, rural community members, students, and individuals interested in agriculture. In addition to its educational and training functions, the LSA offers extension services, including farm business advice, information support, and technology demonstrations. These services are valuable resources for farmers seeking guidance and knowledge on various aspects of agriculture. Upon expressing interest in the LSA, Mr. Langwas was contacted by Sablan, who confirmed his eagerness to participate. A monitoring team visited the farm and acknowledged its suitability as a learning site. However, it was discovered that Mr. Langwas is different from the owner of the land on which the farm operates. This situation could lead to conflicts during the term of the contract. Recognizing this concern, Ms. Epie, responsible for overseeing the LSA, met with Mr. Langwas to brief him on the roles and responsibilities of an LSA. Mr. Langwas clearly understood the expectations and expressed his willingness to take on the responsibility. However, Ms. Epie emphasized the need for Mr. Langwas to resolve the land ownership issue and establish an agreement with the landowner regarding the planned developments on the land. By addressing the land-related concerns and establishing a mutually beneficial agreement with the owner, Mr. Langwas can pave the way for the LSA to continue its valuable work. Once these matters are resolved, the LSA can operate confidently, furthering its mission of promoting agricultural advancement and providing valuable resources to the farming community.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Monitoring	<p>RICE PROGRAM FIELD MONITORING AT IFUGAO, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE AND KALINGA</p> <p>The monitoring of the enhanced and established learning sites for Agriculture was conducted at Ifugao, Mountain Province, and Kalinga on June 5-9, 2023. The monitored farms were (1) Mr. Macario Arqueza's farm an IA president from Lamut Ifugao. His farm was visited by Private companies to promote their products to the farmers. The monitoring team reiterated the responsible use of pesticides being taught during the FFS. Being the LSA operator he is engaging himself in the meetings of other barangay to recruit participants and He also shares his knowledge with his co-farmers during meetings. Moreover, He is conducting farmer field school for high-quality inbred rice under the RCEF program and catering to the farmers of 6 neighboring barangays.</p> <p>According to Mr. Arqueza, the release of funds and slots from TESDA does not sync with the planting season. CIP, the start of class is in December, but the planting season is in February. He also stated that during the dry season, there is no water supply in the field, thus interrupting the FFS schedule. As a solution, Mr. Arqueza needs to coordinate with other barangays for their hands-on activity. (2) Mary Angeline Tello's farm from Aguinaldo, Ifugao. The farm was established in 2021 and received a slot from TESDA for the conduct of FFS in December, covering 7 barangays. The LSA also serves as a venue for introducing new technologies to farmers and it is being used by agencies like DSND and LGU. (3) William Macadangdang's farm from Alfonso Lista, Ifugao. The LSA serves as a venue for activities being conducted by DA-RFO and DTL, like meetings and training. Also conducting FFS under the RCEF program. There is also a delayed release of slots and funds from TESDA. As a solution, they also scout for farms in neighboring barangays to conduct their hands-on activity. (4) Theima Bacan's farm from Paracelis, Mountain Province.</p> <p>The LSA is a rice-based farm and has an area for rice, corn, vegetable, and banana production. She also uses modern technology in her farming activities, like using a four-wheel tractor. The LSA also serves as a venue for meetings and training conducted by the LGU, DTL, ATI, and PLGU. (5) Bonifacio Dumagay's farm from Pinukpuk, Kalinga. Mr. Dumagay has been joining the PalaySikatan of PhilRice. His farm has been serving as a technology demonstration for new farming practices for his neighboring farmers. He also monitors his FFS graduates and how they apply the technology they learned from him. K-12 students are also visiting his farm to learn from his technologies. Also, farmers inquire about their farming management and technologies like vermicomposting and organic production. Furthermore, He received assistance from PhilRice, PhilMech, and BFAR, among others. (6) Alma Mae Cortez's farm from Pinukpuk, Kalinga. The farm is diversified wherein it has rice, mushrooms, vegetables, corn, fruit trees, poultry, and rabbitry. She conducts FFS on high-quality inbred seeds funded by TESDA. She has 1 trainer and 5 facilitators. To reach the far-flung areas of Pinukpuk, she sends her trainers to the far-flung barangays to conduct the FFS there instead of the farmers going to her farm. She has a long list of waitlisted farmers who want to join the FFS and some are rebel returnees. Since DA is a member of ELCAC and as a member of the DA family, the rice program will fund one training on Integrated Farming Systems intended for the far-flung areas of Pinukpuk and for the rebel returnees. This is with the approval of the CDMS section head and with the letter of intent from the farm school endorsed by the MAO of Pinukpuk. (7) Leila Apita's farm from Tabuk City, Kalinga, planning to expand the farm as farm tourism, incorporating mechanization in their farming activities. Moreover, they have been serving as a techno demo site by Pioneer for varietal trails, PhilMech also tapped them for the training they conducted and ATI. She also has been serving as RP for training like SRI and TOT on high-quality inbred rice. (8) Freddie Pacion's farm from Rizal, Kalinga. Mr. Pacion practices integrated farming and conduct FFS for high-quality inbred rice funded by TESDA. He grows corn, assorted vegetables, and he also grows tilapia. (9) Eleazar Tinio's farm from Pasi, Kalinga. Mr. Tinio's farm is an LSA under HVCDP. He processes his harvest like bugnay wine, coffee, and cacao beans. His farm also serves as a venue for training from other agencies such as DENR, DA-RFO, MAO, and OPAg. He planted various crops and fruit trees.</p>



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Date: July 7, 2023

Noted by:

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Center Director/Division Chief

Date: July 7, 2023