



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NOVEMBER | 2023

Center/Division: **RTC-CAR**

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p>KABATAAN SA PAKYUTAN: ADOPT-A-FARM YOUTH TO LIVESTOCK LSA (BEE FARM)</p> <p>The Adopt-a-Farm-Youth is a learning methodology that employs the 4-H motto "learning by doing" designed by the Young Filipino Farmer-Leaders Training Program in Japan (YFFLTPJ). The host is a farmer or fisherfolk who has been recognized as outstanding in his/her category by the regional or "National Gawad Saka" search committee or other award-giving bodies. The youth may also be hosted by Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) certified by the ATI, and other credible farmer organizations or government agencies may also be chosen as hosts.</p> <p>Being the future farmers, "the hope of the fatherland" the youth need to be taught various agricultural technologies to further boost their knowledge, skills, and attitude towards farming. Through this activity, the participants were able to have a first-hand experience of the farm activities of the host farmer. In addition, the young farmer participants are expected to adopt and imbibe desirable values reflected by the host farmer. It is expected that the month-long training will equip the youth with the technical know-how of beekeeping and will encourage them to go into bee farming to augment their family's income.</p> <p>The training was attended by six (6) Youths from CAR on October 12 to November 6, 2023, at Sagada Heritage Bee Farm, Balugan, Sagada, Mt. Province owned by Mr. Jayson Cam-ed. The graduates received one colony each to take care of and increase the colony.</p> <p>Impressions: <i>"I just graduated from high school, and I took a school break because I cannot decide on what course to take. Luckily, I was invited to attend this training. At first, I wasn't really into beekeeping. As the days went by, I was inspired by the contribution of bees to the environment. I genuinely learned a lot. It can be applied abroad, and I can also raise my own bee colony. Therefore, I express my gratitude to ATI and to Sir Jayson and our mentors for this experience and knowledge shared."</i> Johniel Fritz G. Cayat, Young Farmer, Lucnab, Baguio City</p> <p><i>"It's an honor to express our collective thanks to our mentors who have been the guiding light of our beekeeping journey. To our esteemed mentors, your passion for beekeeping has been contagious. Your wealth of knowledge and unwavering dedication have shaped us into confident beekeepers. We will carry the knowledge and passion you've imparted. We'll continue to care for our future hives with dedication and reverence, striving to be stewards of these vital pollinators. Once again, thank you very much!"</i> Jayvan B. Dugao, Young Farmer, Sagada, Mt. Province</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p>BASIC TRAINING COURSE ON LARGE RUMINANTS AI</p> <p>The Philippine livestock industry is a vital component of the country's agricultural sector. The constantly increasing demand for animal protein associated with the increase of the country's population led to the intensification of livestock production, realized through the various initiatives implemented by the government, such as the import of high-producing purebreds of various species and genetic improvement of existing animals using various technologies such as Artificial Insemination (AI). AI is the most important single technique ever devised for the genetic improvement of livestock. This is possible because genetically superior bulls could produce enough spermatozoa to inseminate thousands of females per year.</p> <p>As a breeding method, AI can maximize the use of superior sires which has been considered its greatest advantage it could allow the raisers to have access to utilizing superior genetics in their farm breeding program, especially at the small-hold backyard level where the service of a live buck may not be readily available. However, the results that we are getting so far from our services are quite low and not very convincing. In CAR, the UNAIP record shows that we are one of the lowest regions with calf drop reported. Many factors can be pinpointed as contributory causes of this low performance. Foremost of these are the limited AI technicians and inadequate skills of the livestock coordinators in the provinces/municipalities to perform AI.</p> <p>The training was attended by 24 livestock coordinators of CAR on November 13-16, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet. They agreed that interested and competent participants would be accommodated to participate in the advanced one-month course of large ruminant artificial insemination training.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"Good afternoon to everybody. I appreciate our venue and our accommodation. Even if this training is basic, we learned a lot through our bright resource speaker, Sir Reynaldo. We enjoyed the company of each and everyone. Thank you very much and I hope to see each other again for the one-month training."</i> Ernesto K. Batoy, Agricultural Technician, MLGU-Paracelis, Mt. Province</p> <p><i>"Once again, good afternoon to all of us. We express our gratitude to Sir Reynaldo and Ma'am Kristel for the knowledge you imparted. We also thank our AI coordinator, Sir Gilbert, for coordinating and so that were able to attend this training. Thank you also to Ma'am Beth, Sir Vem and Ma'am Lorna for accommodating us. This training is an introduction to all of us and it needs skill so please invite us to attend the advance training next year for us to really conduct AI in our locality and help our large ruminant raisers. Thank you!"</i> Carl Patrick P. Namingit, Veterinarian II, MLGU-Lagawe, Ifugao</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON THE NUTRIENT EXPERT® FOR CASSAVA</p> <p>Nutrient Expert® for Cassava (Philippines) is a decision-support tool designed for desktop computers, tablets, and mobile phones (with some prerequisites) which enables local experts as well as farmers to quickly formulate fertilizer and fertilization recommendations NSIC-registered and some local cassava varieties in the Philippines. Nutrient Expert® for Cassava will help farmers increase both their yield and productivity through cost-efficient fertilizer recommendations accompanied by management strategies to attain the yield goal based on the local environment and the current farmer practices in an area. The tool only requires an answered questionnaire with information about the farmer's field, the farmer's management practices, and the cost of production. In addition, Nutrient Expert® (NECPH) for Cassava is designed as a learning tool—providing quick help, instant summary tables, and comparative estimates; plus allowing a great amount of flexibility in navigating through the modules on the software.</p> <p>This three-day training was participated in by 20 participants enabling them to navigate the NECPH, where it improved their decision-making (fertilizer recommendation). Held on October 25-27, 2023, at Dammuhan Hall, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions: <i>"This training is a new learning for us and a new knowledge to be shared. It was very interactive. Thank you to the resource persons for sharing their knowledge and skills. The accommodation, food, and facilities are all superb."</i> Danilo B. Marcelo, Jr, AEW, Tabuk City, Kalinga</p> <p><i>"This is my first time also attending a training on cassava. This training is a great help to us considering that fertilizer application on cassava in our place is not of great importance. In addition, I am grateful that I am one of the twenty participants privileged to attend such training."</i> Henedy Capis, AEW, Kapangan, Benguet</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p>2ND REGIONAL EXTENSION MODALITIES SUMMIT</p> <p>The agriculture sector is facing rapid changes and unprecedented challenges. The trends of urban markets, globalization, changing consumption patterns, land and water constraints, climate change, the need for alternative sources of energy including biofuels, and emerging diseases are driving development in agriculture. Hence, innovation is the order of the day. To address these challenges, ATI-RTC-CAR has developed extension modalities to disseminate information, knowledge, and technology to farmers and rural communities, especially for agricultural and rural development. These include the LSAs, Techno-Gabay Program encompassing the MS, CUAMF, PAF-ESP, Farm Family Model, and many more.</p> <p>The 1st Regional Extension Service Modalities Summit in 2022 was successfully concluded, wherein the different LSA cooperators and CUAMF beneficiaries were updated on the new policies and guidelines of LSAs. Most LSAs have also successfully promoted their products and a successful event that has helped build connections and friendships among LSAs. This activity was implemented to continuously strengthen partnerships among the extension modalities in the region and update them with different government programs that could benefit them. The activity was conducted on <i>November 14-15, 2023</i>, at Aspulan Hall ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU compound, La Trinidad, Benguet with 108 participants from the different provinces of Cordillera.</p> <p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, for the next LSA Summit, can we add to the opening presentation the different LSA farms, the description of their commodities, and the owner of the farm for us to be familiar with our co-farm operators and to build connections. • Presentation of Success stories of LSA farm owners for us to learn and be inspired by their own personal experiences. • The conception of the Agricultural Product Display Booth is a good step in the promotion of LSA farm products. • Timely submission of Semestral Reports • The newly elected officers to craft their Constitution and By-laws, meeting was agreed to be done on December 12, 2023 • To send and share, on their group chat, updates and activities done on their farms. • Next summit will be scheduled on the month of October 2024. <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"On behalf of my fellow LSAs, we want to extend our gratitude to ATI-CAR for certifying us to be an LSA. We appreciate this activity because this is the time for us LSA farm owners and partner agencies to gather as one family. In addition, this is also the time to support and build relationships and connections with each other. We also appreciated the display booth because we saw and witnessed each farms' produced products."</i> Rachel D. Maling, Farm Owner of Mansaja-aw Eco-Farm, Tabuk City, Kalinga</p> <p><i>"This Extension Modality Summit has a great impact on us, especially to me, because I have met the different farm owners of the different LSAs in the province of CAR. I know that with this type of activity, we can build rapport with our fellow farm owners."</i> Henry Maquera, Farm Owner of Maquera Integrated Farm, Luyon, Luna, Apayao</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p>AWARDING OF FARM FAMILY TRAINING SUPPORT (2ND REGIONAL EXTENSION MODALITIES SUMMIT) November 14-15, 2023, ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound La Trinidad</p> <p>The Agricultural Training Institute as the catalyst, capacity builder, and knowledge bank has been developing various extension modalities to disseminate information, knowledge, and technology to farmers and rural communities in response to these challenges and developments, especially in the context of agricultural and rural development. To name few of these are Learning Site for Agriculture (LSAs), Techno-Gabay Program encompassing the Magsasaka Siyentista (MS), Community Urban Agriculture Model Farm (CUAMF), Private Agri-Fishery Extension Service Provider (PAF-ESP), Farm Family Model and many more.</p> <p>The summit is a two-day activity wherein ATI shares its innovations and programs to inspire the farmers to be engaged. Sixteen (16) farm families attended wherein they joined the LSAs, MS, CUAMF, and PAF-ESP during the activity. During the awarding, the farm families were awarded "After training support" which they will use in implementing their project proposals. Thus, they agreed to implement their project proposals with the additional funds awarded by the center.</p> <p>Impressions: "Package of this Summit is the presentation of the different government agencies of their Agriculture-related programs. With these presentations, we were informed of the different partner agencies that can help us in the management of our farms." <i>Margareta Joseph, Fit and Fab, Baguio City</i></p> <p>"We are thankful that we were able to join in this activity not only to receive our support fund but also, we were able to gauge a glimpse of the different programs of the different government agencies and the LSAs. It was good to know that we have such programs for us farmers. Thank you." <i>Samy Lang-ay, Farm Family, Baguio City</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Leam)	Other AF	<p>2nd Semester CAR LGU-Agriculture Office Managers Association (LGU-AOMA) Meeting and Orientation on Food Safety November 7-9, 2023, Sagada Mt. Province</p> <p>The LGU Agriculture Office Managers Association (LGU-AOMA CAR) is a newly organized association of the Municipal Agriculturist or Officers that need more support until it becomes a strong and sustainable organization in the region. They had just finalized their policies and guidelines and were able to register their organization with the SEC. These managers need to come up with a definite plan.</p> <p>Under the Food Safety Act of 2013, the Department of Agriculture is mandated to be responsible for food safety in the primary production and postharvest stages of the food supply chain and foods produced locally or imported. In the Department Order 01 series of 2022, there are delineated functions on Food Safety related trainings among the DA Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRA), BAFS, FDCs and ATI. These functions need to be clearly understood by the LHU Managers, being the lead in the implementation of various programs, interventions under the Department of Agriculture and Local Government Units. Also, these Managers need to be updated on the implementation strategies of various FSRAs to align it in their respective plans.</p> <p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All presentations are to be sent in the GC through google link.• Due to limited funds, ATI to shoulder lodging, transportation while BPI for meals.• All AOMA members to contact partner FSRAs for partnership regarding food safety.• All AOMA members to look for output for their staff who attended GAP training.• Re-entry plans are to conduct Gap orientation/training & assist 1 farmer for GAP certification.• Due to limited pax attended this second semester, AOMA meeting to be conducted once a year and during 1st semester.• AOMA members collect registration fee due to limited funds from ATI.• Strengthen and unify their AOMA organization to have a strong voice.• How extension cope up with identified topics• Possible topics for next meeting to be identified by ATI-CAR. <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"This is my first time attending this orientation as a representative of Baguio City and now I am informed of the programs. I would like to thank ATI-CAR and BPI for making this meeting possible. I would also like to thank the efforts of our resource speakers from different FSRAs." Marcelina Tabelin, CNAO, Baguio City</i></p> <p><i>"I would like to take this opportunity to say my thanksgiving to all who facilitated this orientation. It is my first time attending this orientation and I am amazed by the way this group has accomplished it. I would like to thank my fellow participants for their presence also. I would also like to thank all the FSRAs who informed us on their activities to achieve food safety." John Paul Sabado, Calanasan Apayao</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p>7th Joint Regional Farmers' Technology Forum</p> <p>For six consecutive years, the Joint DA-ATI-CAR and CorCAARRD (HARDEC) Technology Fora provided avenues for the sharing of information, technologies, and farming practices worth emulating shared by the Magsasaka Siyentista and researchers. The said implementation of the joint fora over the years paved the sustained partnership and fostered the pooling of resources of both Offices in the implementation of the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) in the region.</p> <p>For the year 2023, the joint forum was part of the 2nd Regional Extension Modalities Summit, where this activity also served as the jump-off of another collaborative endeavor among the DA-ATI-CAR, CorCAARRD, and DA-Cordillera Research Division. As a novice activity, a technology forum and technology/Agri-clinic was conducted inviting the MSs, LSAs, and research cooperators/partners of these Offices, researchers, extensionists, and experts/specialists from the academe. Such diverse participation of various stakeholders of the AFNR research and extension sectors aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, practices, and expertise between and among them following the 'longtongan' concept. The proposed agroclinics are envisaged to provide expert services and advice to farmers on cropping practices, technology dissemination, crop protection from pests and diseases, market trends and prices of various crops in the market, and clinical services for animal health, etc. which would enhance the productivity of crops/animals. Thirty-three (33) participants attended the said activity on November 16, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>The activity enabled the participants to define or describe the highlights of the technology and information learned from the activity; establish, strengthen, and identify possible areas of collaboration with the concerned Offices, fellow farmers, and participants; and disseminate the learning to others in their respective areas.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"As one of the representatives of the farmer cooperator from Apayao, I want to thank the organizers of this activity. This is my first time and I hope this will not be my last. I want to thank our speakers because I learned a lot. This is my first-time hearing about loach since it's not familiar in our place (Apayao). Thank you once again for this activity."</i> Charlie John D. Ayala</p> <p><i>"I'm thankful for this forum. We also had this forum last year, and now it's getting better since we have our research expert with us. Thank you for inviting us here. We have an Agri-clinic added now, we don't need to go to the DOST clinic for checkup since we have an Agri-clinic in ATI. I hope this will stay in ATI for easy access. We are gaining knowledge since you shared a lot. Thank you very much for this forum and for the informative discussion shared by our resource persons."</i> Cornelio C. Malias</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p>Nationwide 8th Organic Agriculture (OA) Month 2023 Celebration with the theme "Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK!",</p> <p>Organic Agriculture enhances global competitiveness and environmental integrity which increases food security and safety and alleviates poverty. Hence, there is a need to focus on the importance of OA to encourage its adoption in the country. The National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP), as the lead agency of OA in the country, supports the conduct of the said celebration. This month-long activity showcased different practices, technologies, and products from various OA stakeholders all over the country. Through this celebration, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) together with the DA-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) and other DA-Attached Agencies, Farmers Associations, Academe, and other entities support the promotion of organic agriculture in the country.</p> <p>The OA Month Celebration raised the level of awareness of the OA farmers and would be practitioners on the production and consumption of healthy, nutritious, wholesome, and safe food. The activity elevates the local public support on healthier crop production and consumption patterns and alternatives in the Philippines through a massive multi-modal and interactive information dissemination campaign. The training was conducted on November 1-30, 2023, at Kapangan Benguet and ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU compound La Trinidad Benguet. It was participated by 50 farmers.</p> <p>Impressions: <i>"I am thankful for being invited to this event. I want to express gratitude to ATI-RT-CAR for providing this opportunity, and I appreciate the kits that were distributed. These kits are a significant help for people like me, especially those without a large farm for gardening" -Ms. Julie Lacaguey</i></p> <p><i>"First and foremost, heartfelt thanks to ATI-RTC-CAR for choosing our barangay for this meaningful activity. As a united community, we want to express our sincere gratitude because we never anticipated being selected, considering our distance from the city. We appreciate your dedication and sacrifices to make this happen. Special thanks to Hon. Manny Fermin for your unwavering support. To our community members, thank you for participating and supporting this event; your presence has truly enriched the success of this endeavor. Through this activity, we've come to realize the importance of urban gardening. Thanks also to Ms'am Ursula Sacley and Sir Edwin Dickson for the brief yet meaningful sharing" -Mr. Aprie Cab-ad</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p>YFFLTPJ applicants</p> <p>The Young Filipino Farmer Leaders Training Program in Japan (YFFLTPJ) is a partnership between the DA-ATI and Taiwan (TECO) which aims to enhance the relations through the implementation of an internship program for qualified young Filipino farmers. Generally, the program aims to develop deserving young Filipino farmers to become empowered farmer leaders and agricultural entrepreneurs. Before the activity, orientation, and screening of applicants through written exams were conducted at the center. Those who passed the examination and submitted their basic documentary requirements were considered for validation.</p> <p>The seven (7) applicants passed the examination and were ranked according to their scores. They were all qualified for validation. Thus, Ms. Veronica and staff traveled to Lamut, Ilugao; Tabuk City and Lubuagan Kalinga; Villaviciosa, Abra; and Manikyan, Benguet to conduct field validation of YFFLTPJ applicants on October 24-27, 2023. They visited the farms of the 7 applicants and interviewed their parents regarding their knowledge of the program. LGU representatives/ 4H coordinator were also present to further prove the farming knowledge as well as the authenticity of the documents of the applicant. As a result, they were all qualified to be endorsed to ATI-CO for final screening, but they must complete the necessary documents and requirements as prescribed.</p> <p>OA Youth Scholars in Ilugao</p> <p>To maximize the travel during the LSA Monitoring at Ilugao, Mr. Edwin Dickson, ATI-RTC-CAR OA Focal also monitored the OA Youth Scholars deployed in their respective LSAs on October 23-27, 2023.</p> <p>The two deployed OA Youth Scholars in the Aquilina Saguilot farm were actively and efficiently performing their roles and functions on the farm. According to Mrs. Saguilot, the scholars are responsible, hardworking, dependable, and generous among others. Also, Mrs. Saguilot sent the two scholars to attend a training course on Cacao Production and Processing within the week to enhance their knowledge and skills relative to Cacao. On the other hand, at Camal's Integrated Farm, Mr. Camal was proud to say that he utilized the two OA Youth Scholars in instructing the TESDA Scholars in performing the OA Competency hands-on activities including oral interviews during the assessment. According to Mr. Camal, this initiative would boost the morale and confidence of the OA Scholars in their pursuit as would-be OA LSA and TESDA Farm School in the future.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Exhibit)	Field Monitoring	<p>Throughout the month various monitoring of LSAs/SPAs was undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquilina Saguilot's School for Practical Agriculture (Aquilina Saguilot, Nayon, Lamut, Ilugao)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In 2020, Aquilina Saguilot's Farm was elevated as SPA under the Organic Agriculture program.- As regards her plans for the enhancement of the farm, Mrs. Saguilot stated that the completion of the two-story building is one of her priorities.- Intensify the production of tablea, mukoskol/wood vinegar, and compost for commercial purposes. Likewise, apply for OA Certification under PGS upon approval of the Certification and Accreditation of Lamut Organic Practitioners Cooperative (LOPRACCO) PGS Group.• Maymandros Farm (Diana Ross Gragasin, Mabatobato, Lamut, Ilugao)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recently certified as LSA under the OA Program without financial assistance.- Currently applying for TESDA Accreditation as Farm School and Training Center.- Planning to expand the production area for Agricultural Crop Production (ACP) for ACP NC II aside from the existing organic farm for Organic Agriculture Production (OAP) for OAP NC II.• Camat's Integrated Farm (Villarfuerte Camat, Poblacion, Lamut, Ilugao)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Camat availed of the Composting Facility- Shredder and Rotary Composter from LGU-Lamut/BSWM for the mass production of compost for the farm and for possible commercialization due to high demand within the locality.- Mr. Camat was consistently participating in the Scholarship Program of TESDA, particularly in Organic Agriculture Production NC II.• Deebee's Farm (Cathy Buenaventura, Kangan, Ilugao)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In response to the demand for training courses for clients related to food and products' processing, Mrs. Cathy Buenaventura constructed a lodging facility with 3 rooms which can accommodate 4-5 persons per room with individual CRs & bathrooms. Also, an open training hall with roofing that can accommodate 25-30 participants, and a storage room on the right side of the structure.- Expanded her vegetable production area to produce more tomatoes, beans, okra, etc. which are in demand in the local market.• Ivan Baguilat Farm (Ivan Baguilat, Lamut, Ilugao)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Baguilat continuously improving the farm lay-out and landscape for purposely for LSA activities, Agri-farm tourism, farm and observation tours, and other educational purposes.- Also enhanced the farm by planting different species of ornamental plants sunflowers, Amarillo, Zinnia, frog grasses, etc. on the beautiful landscapes as a tourist attraction.



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Exhibit)	Performance Assessment	<p>2nd SEMESTER REGIONAL ESP COUNCIL MEETING AND VALIDATION OF PAF-ESP APPLICANT IN BAGUIO CITY AND APAYAO</p> <p>Under the AFMA, the DA-ATI-RTC-CAR was given the mandate to accredit ESPs to hasten and improve public-private partnership in agriculture and fisheries, and provide training and extension services to the Department of Agriculture's stakeholders; provide opportunities and wider participation of the private sector, recognize and harness the efforts and capabilities of private institutions/service providers, provide a variety of extension activities to Agricultural Extension Workers, farmers, IPs and other stakeholders in support to the trusts of AFMA and of the Organic Agriculture Act. As for the ESP program, an ESP council was established. Some of the functions of the councils are to evaluate new applicants for ESP, evaluate the yearly performance of the accredited ESPs especially its adherence to the ATI's standards in delivering training and extension services, and endorse for reaccreditation of accredited ESPs. There is also a need to disseminate to the council and discuss updates on the ESP program and its implementation. Hence, this activity is held twice a year.</p> <p>The 2nd Semester ESP Council meeting was conducted with the following agenda: Revalidation of Saint Louis University Extension for Small Scale Industries Foundation Incorporated (SLU-EISSIFI) for re-accreditation; Validation of VEAVERANDA Nature Farm and Training Center Incorporated; Award of the Accreditation Certificate of ROUMEIA in Alfonso Lista, Ilugao; and discuss updates on extension service providers. The activity was participated in by the ESP council members (6 members) at Bakakeng, Baguio City on October 24-27, 2023.</p> <p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Enara to write a letter to DA-RFO-CAR to designate an official representative of RAFEN since Dr. Virginia A. Tapat has already retired. • The SLU-EISSIFI's accreditation as ESP has expired since January 2023 but they just signified their intention for renewal of accreditation as PAF-ESP, thus scheduled for field re-validation. • Considering the conduct of Annual Performance Review to accredited PAF-ESPs to monitor the performance and accomplishments, the council has agreed to re-endorse SLU-EISSIFI, provided they complete the documents required. • Awarded the Certificate of Accreditation of ROUMEIA Agri-tourism and Training Center, Inc. They were re-validated last March 29-31, 2023, and were endorsed for accreditation. • The ESP council agreed to endorse Veaveranda Nature Farm and Training Center, Inc. but subject to the compliance and submission of identified requirements and lacking documents. The Training Center then will be subjected for re-validation.
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Advise)		No advisory services provided for this month



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Disseminate)	Success Story	<p>A Farmer's shift to new ways of Rice Farming October 27, 2023</p> <p><i>"Let us not close doors to better opportunities and try various innovations that could surely help us progress."</i></p> <p>A success story about Mr. Dominador Julian Jr., a traditional rice farmer who has long been conforming to the used-to's, was introduced to various technologies that greatly helped him increase his production. In 2019, he was able to benchmark the use of a walk-behind mechanical transplanter, Palay check system, and other machineries applicable. A significant technology he adopted after participating in the FFS is the utilization of the walk-behind transplanter. This technology proved instrumental in reducing his labor expenses and enabled him to regulate the seedlings being transplanted per hill.</p> <p>Although he has incorporated advanced machinery and innovative techniques into our rice production, the irrigation system remains a significant challenge due to the farm's reliance on rain-fed water. In such situations, he has not yet been able to fully optimize his farm yield. Yet, even amid this seeming challenge, there is a glimmer of hope for farmers like Mr. Julian, and it comes in the form of "Alternate Wetting and Drying" (AWD), a sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practice that holds the potential to transform their fortunes.</p> <p>AWD is an innovative water conservation technique that farmers can adopt to reduce their usage of irrigation water in rice fields while maintaining or even increasing crop yield. The farming landscape is evolving, and with the challenges of water scarcity, innovative approaches like AWD emerge as beacons of hope for farmers battling against the odds. For farmers like Mr. Julian, the promise of alternate wetting and drying could mean a return to more prosperous harvests and a brighter future. Thus, Mr. Julian encourages his fellow farmers to join various learning courses on agriculture for this will help in increasing their knowledge as well as increasing their rice yield.</p>
	Documentation	<p>DOCUMENTATION OF RCEF-EXEMPLAR BENEFICIARIES, November 5-8, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video documentation for Facebook postings were undertaken for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ J&E Integrated Farming School ✓ J&B Farming School, and ✓ Jacob Farm School • The team also went to the rice production areas of Ms. Kathryn Barroga, Mr. Michael Johnson Mabaio, Ms. Emily Paiaad, Mr. Jaime Tallongon, and Mr. Dominador Julian to take shots and document their farming practices for the RCEF magazine
	Knowledge Products	<p>Throughout the month, a total of 450 copies of Knowledge Products (KP) were reproduced and 1,200 copies of KP were disseminated.</p> <p>DA-ATI-RTC-CAR intensified its online promotions with 36 webpages uploaded in social media. With the said uploads, there were 72,798 individuals reached and 315 page views.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Disseminate)	SOA	<p>SOA-SRA Graduation</p> <p>Graduates of PalayAralan: Makabagong Pagsasaka sa Himpapawid: School on the Air on Smart Rice Agriculture (SOA-SRA) from the 18 municipalities of Abra held on June 22, 2023 – October 17, 2023 via DZPA CMN Puso ti Abra. The Graduation Ceremony was conducted at Mt. Carmel Agri-Tourism and Training Center, Monggoc, Pidigan, Abra last October 17, 2023.</p> <p>The SOA-SRA helps catalyze agriculture modernization through the massive and sustained education of smallholder farmers and local intermediaries on modern and innovative technologies and approaches on smart rice production.</p> <div data-bbox="607 694 1410 1238"></div> <div data-bbox="1450 687 2260 1238"></div>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Graduation Ceremony	RCEF SEED DISTRIBUTION KICK OFF CEREMONY AND PROGRAM BRIEFING AND FFS GRADUATION CEREMONY Mr. Randy Soriano, ATI-RTC-CAR RCEF Focal, attended the graduation ceremony of Bacayan's Integrated Farm School on "Production of High-quality Inbred Rice, Seeds Certification and Farm Mechanization" on October 17-20, 2023, at Hungduan, Iligao. He inspired and challenged the FFS graduates to dream big, learn continuously, embrace resilience, and build strong relationships. Furthermore, to maximize the travel, Mr. Soriano also gave a briefing on the RCEF Extension program services of Agricultural Training Institute-CAR to the farmers of Hungduan, Iligao, and Pasil, Kalinga.
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Symposium and Congress	13th REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON R&DE HIGHLIGHTS AND 6TH STUDENT'S CONGRESS OF THE CorCAARRD The DA-ATI-CAR as one of the members of CorCAARRD, Ms. Jalia Sagpa-ey of ATI-RTC-CAR/ISS, headed to Luna, Apayao on October 23-27, 2023, for the opening program of the 13 th Regional Symposium on R&DE Highlights and 6 th Student's Congress of the CorCAARRD. At the same time, to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony for institutional booths and the launching of the Intellectual Property Technology Management (IPTM) marker of ASC. In addition, Ms. Sagpa-ey also served as a member of the evaluators for the Regional Student Congress paper presentation.
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	Province-led Agriculture and Fishery Extension System – Regional Program Management Office (PAFES-RPMO) Secretariat Meeting On November 21, 2023, Mr. Jomar Guerson, PAFES staff of ATI-RTC-CAR attended a meeting at ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet, in preparation for the year-end assessment. During the review of the status of the province's PAFES implementation, findings showed that among the six provinces, only Iligao was left behind at 50% physical accomplishment. Furthermore, the liquidation and terminal reports of the provinces were set to be submitted on January 19, 2024. Updating the status of Iligao PAFES activities Ms. Mae D. Ko-isen, DA-RFO-CAR PAFES focal, led a brief meeting on November 15, 2023, at the Office of the Provincial Agriculture attended by the PAFES staff of ATI-RTC-CAR and the PAFES secretariats of Iligao. The purpose of the meeting was to fast-track the province implementation since among the six (6) provinces, Iligao is at 50% while the rest (5) are at 100% completion of their targets and are now working on their savings. One of the relevant discussions discussed was the use of savings and their work and financial plan. It was agreed upon that they would conduct an Assessment and Operational Planning Program for their savings. The tentative date of conduct will be the 2 nd week of December. Special Meeting at ATI-CO, Diliman, Quezon City On November 10, 2023, before the attendance at the Opening Ceremony of OA Month, the ATI Directorate headed by Dir. Remelyn Recoter, MNSA, CESO III, Director IV of ATI, initiated a special meeting with the RTC Center Directors and OA Focal Persons to discuss urgent matters and updates relative to training and extension PPAs. The activities were attended by Mr. Maximino Aromin Jr., TCS II and Mr. Edwin Dickson, OA Focal of ATI-RTC-CAR are very crucial in the implementation of the Rice, Corn, and OA Programs for CY 2024 onwards. Ways forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate implementation of the Technical Briefing on Palayamanan Plus/Rice-Based Farming by ATI-RTCs before the year ends.• Integrate the additional National Budget Allocation amounting to P 100 million under the Corn and Cassava Program for CY 2024.



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Graduation Ceremony	<p>RiceBIS Program Launching for Region 2 And CAR & Philgap Mass Graduation</p> <p>Representatives from TESDA, DAR, DOST, DTL, ATI-RTC-CAR, and DA-RFO with Provincial Agriculturist Domingo Mariano and Ms. Fe Villa, Agricultural Technologist of Alfonso Lista, Itugao with her representative graduates of the PhilGAP Training graced the activity. Dr. Diadem Gonzales-Esmero, RiceBIS Program Leader, oriented the participants about the RiceBIS 2.0 program highlighting the various accomplishments in terms of market matching of organizations with institutional buyers as well as the accomplishment in the PhilGAP program. Each representative gave a message of support to the program, after which the graduation ceremony followed. The day ended with the commitment signing to the program. Mr. Maximino Aromin Jr. served as ATI-RTC-CAR representative during this activity on November 16, 2023, at Bagumbayan, Dupax Del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Monitoring	<p>Throughout the month various validation, monitoring, and accreditation were undertaken.</p> <p>➤ MAGSASAKA SIYENTISTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Pudtol, Apayao (Riseline Crisologo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active MS and LSA with ongoing farm activities and with standing crops, as the area is being used for hands-on activities by students (OJT). - Awarded the certificate (renewal) as MS of Apayao on GAP on lowland vegetables. 📍 Karikitan, Apayao (Ireneo Ortega) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For renewal as LSA but not for MS since he is physically limited to do farm work. - Ms. Jala Sagga-ey of ATI-RTC-CAR advised the ASC that they may nominate another, and new MS for their College as PMA since MS Ortega can no longer serve as MS (physically). <p>➤ LIVESTOCK-INSPIRE PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 30 Sow-Level Swine Multiplier and Techno Demo Farm infrastructure project funded under the DA-NLP INSPIRE Program <p>Field monitoring and inspection of the ongoing implementation of the infrastructure component of the INSPIRE Program, Construction of 30 Sow-Level Swine Multiplier, and Techno Demo Farm Project, funded under the Department of Agriculture- National Livestock Program. The infrastructure project is being implemented by the ATI-RTC-CAR in partnership with the Municipal Local Government Unit of Luna, Apayao through the Municipal Agriculture Office which is the primary beneficiary and is being constructed at the Municipal property at Barangay Turod, Luna, Apayao.</p> <p>The monitoring was done on October 26, 2023, by the team of ATI-RTC-CAR Center Director Mr. Charlie Sagudan. During the site monitoring and inspection, TCD Sagudan explained the required 60% physical accomplishment to contractor Arch. Ponciano Mina for the downloading of the remaining funds to LGU Luna. Work on the INSPIRE facilities will commence when the access road is improved at that site development, which is the downgrading of the project site, is completed.</p> <p>A follow-up monitoring was conducted on November 17, 2023, by Engr. Windel Baaten of ATI-RTC-CAR. Physical accomplishment as of the date of monitoring and inspection is 10%. To meet the required target 60% physical accomplishment, the inspectorate team discussed and suggested with the LGU and contractor's representative to prioritize the following construction activities after completion of foundation concreting:</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Construction of concrete columns and beams.➤ Installation of steel trusses.➤ Installation of roofing and its components➤ CHB laying for perimeter walls.➤ Start simultaneously the construction of seed storage and swine housing.➤ Earlier canvassing of equipment for suppliers <p>📍 Swine AI sa Barangay (SWAIB) infrastructure project funded under the DA-NLP INSPIRE Program</p> <p>On November 9-10, 2023, Mr. Windel Baatan of ATI-RTC-CAR conducted a field monitoring and inspection of the ongoing implementation of the infrastructure component of the INSPIRE Program, Swine Artificial Insemination sa Barangay (SWAIB) Project Housing and Facility, funded under the Department of Agriculture- National Livestock Program. The infrastructure project is being implemented by the ATI-RTC-CAR in partnership with the Provincial Local Government of Mountain Province through the Provincial Veterinary Office which is the primary beneficiary of the Program and is being constructed at the Provincial Nursery, Otucan Norte, Bako, Mountain Province.</p> <p>Physical accomplishment as of the date of monitoring and inspection is 77.20%. The problem as of now is the purchase of cooling pads and its accessories are still under canvass by the contractor. There have already been two suppliers contacted but the contractor is looking for a supplier who will supply, deliver, and install the equipment.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	OA Month Celebration	<p>Opening Ceremony of the 9th Organic Agriculture (OA) Month</p> <p>The 9th OA Month celebration aims to strengthen the country's organic agriculture industry by improving the level of public awareness of OA, showcasing research and technologies, promoting organic and naturally grown products, and featuring the success stories of OA practitioners.</p> <p>The ATI-RTC-CAR representatives proceeded to the Quezon Memorial Circle and attended the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Organic Agriculture (OA) Month Celebration. This undertaking is in line with the nationwide celebration of the OA Month every November through Proclamation No. 1030, series of 2015 which states that it is declared policy of the State to further promote, propagate, develop, and practice organic agriculture in the country. This year's theme was approved by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), "Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK". This celebration serves as an avenue to present various organic agriculture technologies to the organic agriculture stakeholders and practitioners in the country. The said undertaking was participated by OA practitioners, government agencies, local government officials, academe, and private institutions on November 10, 2023.</p> <p>2nd National Kabataang OA Quiz Bee</p> <p>In celebration of the 9th Organic Agriculture Month with the theme "Kabataang OA, Kinabukasang OK", the Agricultural Training Institute held the 2nd Kabataang OA Quiz Bee on November 22-24, 2023, at the RDEC, ATI-Central Office, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Fourteen (14) college students taking up Agriculture-related courses vied for this year's championship, together with them are their respective coaches and coordinators. Mr. Carlwin Villanueva, a BS in Agriculture Major in Animal Science at the Apayao State College represented the Cordillera Region, together with his coach Mr. Marcel Tomas to the said activity.</p> <p>The winners of the said competition are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1st Place: Tracy Nicole Del Rosario from Bulacan State Agricultural College (ATI Central Luzon)2nd Place: Kean Erick Ganza from Sorsogon State University- Castilla Campus (ATI Bicol)3rd Place: Septhian Cabando from Mindanao State University- GenSan Campus (ATI - Region 12)4th Place: Jessa Solis from Mindanao State University- Naawan Campus (ATI Northern Mindanao)5th Place: Melody R. Bolfane from South Luzon State University (ATICALABARZON)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Lapan (Rabbit Meat) Cooking Contest Judge	<p>Lapan (Rabbit Meat) Cooking Contest Judge during the 123rd Founding Anniversary of Benguet thru Advay</p> <p>The Province of Benguet is celebrating its 123rd Foundation Anniversary through Advay this whole month of November. As a part of the month-long celebration, the PVET-Benguet conducted a Lapan cooking contest. This activity aims to promote Lapan as an alternative healthy protein source in Benguet as well as showcase the culinary skills of students and rabbit raisers. The contest has two categories, the first category was participated by 13 municipalities of Benguet, and the second category was participated by nine (9) different schools in Benguet. On November 21, 2023, Ms. Perla Epie, DMO I of ATI-RTC-CAR/PASS headed to Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet to serve as a judge during the competition.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Seminar	<p>Public Service Induction and Republic Act No. 6713</p> <p><i>"An act establishing a code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees, to uphold the time-honored Principle of Public Office being a public trust, granting incentives and rewards for Exemplary service, enumerating prohibited acts and transactions and providing penalties for violations thereof and for other purposes."</i></p> <p>Ms. Perla Epie, DMD I of ATI-RTC-CAR/PASS attended a seminar through Zoom meeting on November 16-17, 2023. Discussed in the seminar are the "Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees highlighting the Commitment to Public Interest, Professionalism, Justness and Sincerity, Political Neutrality, Responsiveness to the Public, Nationalism and Patriotism, Commitment to Democracy, and Simple Living. Furthermore, the "Duties of Public Officials and Employees", "Prohibited Acts and Transactions", and "Benefits of a Government Employee" were also stressed and discussed during the conduct of seminar.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	IRR	<p>4th Quarter Meeting of the RDC-Sectoral Committee on Economic Development</p> <p>As ATI-RTC-CAR commits to continuous support for upcoming undertakings, following the 3rd Quarter 2023 RDC Sectoral Committee on Economic Development Meeting, a 4th Quarter Meeting was held on November 21, 2023, at NEDA-RDC Hall, Baguio City, and attended by Ms. Brandy Banda-ay, ATI-RTC-CAR representative. Highlighted in the meeting were as follows: Matters Arising from the 3rd Quarter Meeting; Proposed Biosphere Reserve of the Apayao for UNESCO Program on Man and Biosphere (MAP); Cordillera Festival of Festivals every October of the year; 2nd North Luzon Travel Expo (NLTE); The Cordilleras Philippine Experience Program: Culture, Heritage and Arts Caravan; Updates from the Agricultural Sub-Sectoral Committee; Updates from the Gold-Trading Sub-Sectoral Committee; and the ER 1-94 Guidelines.</p> <p>4th Quarter Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Regional Advisory Council</p> <p>Members of the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) of the DSWD FO CAR met on November 14, 2023, at the DSWD CAR Training Center in Baguio City, for the 4th quarter meeting. The meeting was attended by Ms. Brandy Banda-ay as ATI-RTC-CAR representative. The RAC members delivered updates on the programs and services offered to the beneficiaries in the various sections of the region as partners in assuring the delivery of essential social services to the beneficiaries and vulnerable sectors in the Cordillera.</p> <p>During the review of the previous Minutes of Meeting during 3rd Quarter Meeting agreements were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DSWD-CAR suggested DOH-CAR to present the result of the research in mental health cases in the next RAC quarter, if possible.2. To follow up and raise the concern of the Data Sharing Agreement to NAC level (4Ps NPMO) to be able to respond to the concern on identification of 4Ps learners by DepEd. <p>Respective agencies gave a five-minute presentation of updates focusing on the provided programs and services to 4Ps beneficiaries or in partnership with other programs of the DSWD from August - September. Furthermore, new convergence areas were identified namely: Abra (Penarrubia), Apayao (Pudtol and Sta. Marcela), Benguet (Tublay), Ifugao (Hingyon), Kalinga (Tanudan), and Mt. Province (Sagada).</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
	Travel Accomplishment Report	<p>Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT)</p> <p>The FYFIPT is an 11-month internship program in Taiwan for qualified young Filipino farmers. The program aims to support the youth to gain skills and knowledge about modern agricultural and fisheries techniques, marketing strategies, and cooperative management, among others. Ms. Veronica Siloy, ATI-RTC-CAR 4H/RBO Focal headed to Taiwan November 13-17, 2023, to conduct FYFIPT Operational Monitoring & Evaluation. The monitoring team evaluated how the internship programs were carried out and determined the extent to which the training empowered young Filipino farmers. The team also identified problems and issues through face-to-face interviews with the interns and host families and conducted observations through actual visitation of interns and the farms of the host families.</p> <p>Problems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One of the interns requested for the termination of his contract since he is experiencing severe back pain.2. For some interns, the commodity that they prioritized during their application was not the commodity wherein they were assigned.3. Some interns also want to render overtime during weekends, but they couldn't do so because there is not enough work to do during weekends.4. Homesickness is being experienced by the interns but according to them, this is not really a serious problem with the presence of social media.
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	3 rd Party Audit	<p>TUV-SUD 3rd Party Recertification Audit</p> <p>ATI-RTC-CAR is one of the five ATI Centers together with the ATI Central Office which were selected as audit sites for the ATI recertification audit. The Center is on its third Recertification Audit since 2015 from version 9001: 2008 version and recertification to the new version 9001:2015.</p> <p>TUV-SUD auditor Mr. Xavier Lance went through the ATI-RTC-CAR's services and processes on November 28, 2023, at the ATI-RTC-CAR in La Trinidad, Benguet. The Center's sections, through the process owners, presented evidence and responded to probing questions from the auditor to prove the Center's compliance with its Quality Management System and to the requirements of ISO 9001:2015. There were "No major or minor nonconformities found" announced by the TUV-SUD during the wrap-up session. Only few Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ISS concerns- form E to be followed-up to ATI-CO• Another ISS concern is on the procedure wherein, the need to submit and e-copy of success story to be approved by ISD.• PAS concerns- Certification of RUMIA as ESP which was not reflected roster of ESP master list on the website.



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	NRAM	<p>Be RICEPONSIBLE: Celebrating National Rice Awareness Month by Cultivating Health, Culture, and Sustainability in the Cordillera Region</p> <p>Bridging Farm to Classroom: A Culinary and Cultural Celebration of National Rice Awareness Month</p> <p>The National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) is anchored with the slogan "Be RICEponsible", which heightens public awareness of efforts to attain rice self-sufficiency and address malnutrition and poverty. The slogan invites us to appreciate the dedication of our homegrown farmers, the unsung heroes who cultivate the fields that grace our tables. On November 21 and 23, 2023, the team from ATI-RTC-CAR took the spirit of the celebration to the municipalities of Sadanga in Mountain Province and Hingyon Ifugao. Part of the celebration was the IEC campaign and nutritional briefing of the Golden Rice by Ms. Rainheart Inonejas and Ms. Lea Flores of PhilRice-Isabela. Moreover, a culinary extravaganza was also done to promote healthy and efficient ways to prepare rice-based dishes. It showcased the versatility of rice in a cooking show that highlights the star of the month which is the Golden Rice. Ms. Adia Gama of ATI-RTC-CAR demonstrated recipes incorporating nutrient-packed grain. Recipes demonstrated were "kuho" sisig, Chicken Tinola Malusog rice pot, Chicken Pastil at Malusog Rice, and Malusog Rice Embutido.</p> <p>Other Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Posting of NRAM Banner at the Office premise of ATI-RTC-CAR, Sagadan, Sadanga, and HingyonSocial Media Campaign- weekly posting and sharing of infographics and videos highlighting rice varieties' nutritional benefits, the significance of responsible rice consumption, and tips on proper rice portioning, storage, and cooking techniques.Recitation of the Be RicePONSIBLE Pledge during the closing program of the seminar/activity series and at the flag-raising ceremony in the Center throughout November.Print advocacy, IEC material, and recipe cards were distributed to participants during the seminar/activity series.Show Your Love for Rice: NRAM T-Shirt were distributed to raise awareness and celebrate rice's vital role in the lives of the Cordillera people and the rich culture it represents. The advocacy T-Shirts were distributed to participants and staff during the seminar/activity series.



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Performance Assessments	<p>2nd Semester Regional ESP Council Meeting and Validation of PAF-ESP Applicant in Baguio City and Apayao, October 24-27, 2023, SLU-EISSIFI, Bakakeng, Baguio City and Veaveranda, Sta. Marcela, Apayao</p> <p>The activity aims to evaluate the compliances of PAF-ESP applicants for endorsement for accreditation and to award the Certificate of Accreditation for newly accredited ESP, the ROUMEIA Agri-tourism and Training Center, Inc. The 2nd Semester ESP Council meeting was conducted with the following agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revalidation of Saint Louis University Extension for Small Scale Industries Foundation Incorporated (SLU-EISSIFI) for re-accreditation • Validation of VEAVERANDA Nature Farm and Training Center Incorporated • Award the Accreditation Certificate of ROUMEIA in Alfonso Lista, Ifugao • discuss updates on extension service providers. <p>The activity was participated by the ESP council members: Ms. Christine D. Abellon representing the Private Sector, Mr. Constantino T. Sudaypan representing the SUC, Ms. Delina D. Juan and her Alternate (PLGU) who was in Davao was represented by Mr. Tyrone K. Dagdag, Ms. Marilyn Tejero (RAFEN) who was being audited by an external auditor was represented by Mr. Oliver S. Pe, The Council was headed by Mr. Charlie C. Sagadan as the ESP Regional Executive Officer. With him was Ms. Cristine B. Esnara, the ESP Secretariat.</p> <p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council tasked Ms. Esnara to make a letter to DA-RFO-CAR to designate an official representative of RAFEN since Dr. Virginia A. Tapat has already retired. • At SLU-EISSIFI, the quorum was met, thus the meeting started at exactly 9:00am with an opening prayer followed by acknowledgement of participants, ESP Council members and presentation of overview of the activity by Ms. Esnara. Ms. Esnara asked the presence of Dr. Roberto Arguelles, as the OIC of SLU-EISSIFI but unfortunately, he is also tied up with works as he is also the President for Finance of SLU. • The SLU-EISSIFI's accreditation as ESP has expired since January 2023 but they just signified their intention for renewal of accreditation as PAF-ESP, thus scheduled for field re-validation. • Ms. Amelia Gas-it, Center Coordinator of SLU-EISSIFI presented their documentary requirements, following the updated ISO form for Applicant's Checklist of Requirements aside from the hard copy they submitted. These documents were validated for compliance by the Council using the updated ISO form for PAF-ESP Field Validation Report. Details and recommendations recorded were as follows: • SLU-EISSIFI is technically addressed at CCA Building, SLU, Bonifacio Road, Baguio City as sited on their SEC registration but at present, the Board of Trustees already executed a resolution for the amendment of their address which will be at Beekeeping Service Center, Bakakeng, Baguio City. • Certification for the short-term nature of service provided for on-call lecturers was attached instead of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). • Reorganization and restructuring of their Board of Trustees were some of the reasons why they could not immediately renew their accreditation. • Certification of exemption was attached regarding the requirement to secure DTI Business Permit as it is only for sole proprietorship. However, their trade name for their honey product has been duly registered with the Bureau of Trademarks of the Intellectual Property Office for legal protection of their brand.



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Performance Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Sagudan also suggested for them to secure License to Operate from the FDA since they are offering for sale food products which, accordingly, the Foundation already have FDA license.• In order to track records of their graduates, Mr. Sagudan suggested making a percentage tabulation for their trainees who are successfully employed locally or internationally. According to Ms. Amy, they have this data and they present during Performance evaluation sessions.• As the foundation claims that they have been struggling and facing challenges since the pandemic and due to increasing competitors, Ms. Abellon suggested upscaling or thinking of another training program that they can offer to clients like training on processing and packaging of honey products.• In addition to sourcing out funds to other agencies and UN programs, they are advised to apply for Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to the DA-RFO-CAR as this is one of the requirements to receive interventions. <p>The council acknowledged that they have second thoughts on the issue of restructuring of the foundation as it might affect their responsibility and function as an Extension Service Provider. But, considering the conduct of Annual Performance Review to accredited PAF-ESPs to monitor the performance and accomplishments, they have agreed to re-endorse SLU-ESSIFL provided they complete the documents being required. The ESP council and the TMT travelled to Alfonso Lista, Iligao to award the Certificate of Accreditation of ROUMEIA Agri-tourism and Training Center, Inc. This was received by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Viernes, Managers of the Training Center, on behalf of Ms. Imelda Mayangao. They were re-validated last March 29-31, 2023 and were endorsed for accreditation. Ms. Cristine D. Abellon was not able to attend the field validation at Sta. Marcela, Agayao due to some urgent and unavoidable circumstances. Documentary requirements of Visaveranda Nature Farm and Training Center Incorporated was presented by Mr. Pascua. Coincide with the presentation is the validation for compliances of documents by the ESP council members, following the updated ISO forms for Applicants Checklist of Requirements and PAF-ESP Field Validation Report. Hard copy of the required documents was also submitted. Findings were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aside from the existing courses which include OA NC II and ACP NC II, they are currently applying to TESDA for courses on Agricultural Entrepreneurship NC II and Aquaculture NC II.• They are conducting an Institutional assessment to assess their trainees first before the conduct of the training course.• Existing facilities include a training hall, composting area and stock room.• Provide a story behind their Training Center's name that might showcase the uniqueness of their farm.• Conduct a tracer study for their graduates.• Collect Gender Disaggregated Data (GDD)• Conduct after training and Resource Person evaluations. <p>The ESP council agreed to endorse Visaveranda Nature Farm and Training Center, Inc. but subject to the compliance and submission of identified requirements and lacking documents. The Training Center then will be subjected for re-validation. Non-compliances were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate of Exemption or justification for non-submission of DTI Business Permit as they are already SEC registered• GAP/DA Certification since they are offering OA NC II• Updated Competency Matrix/List of Officials and Employees for the list of on-call lecturers. In addition, trainers for OA NC II must have NC II on Organic Agriculture as a qualification.• Completion of the construction of facilities including the lodging and training halls



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Planning Workshop	<p>DA-RFO-ATI-CAR Harmonization Meeting for FY2024 WFP</p> <p>Harmonization of Extension Support, Education and Training Services (ESETS) has been conducted regularly, at least in CAR. Although the ATI-RTC-CAR 2024 WFP are still for commitment and approval, there are departmental directives that need to be considered prior to implementation of ESETS in terms of roles and functions, standard procedures and protocols, understanding and priorities.</p> <p>Furthermore, ESETS should not be a stand-alone intervention. It should not only contribute to production but more on how ESETS are integrated in the operations to sustain results of various projects and programs that was gained for the region.</p> <p>Hence, the ATI-RTC-CAR, DA-RFO-CAR, PAFES-Focal Person once again has strategized and shared ideas side by side for the same clients and for ONE Cordillera.</p> <p>Agreements:</p>		
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		ORGANIC AGRICULTURE		
		On OA scholarship, is it the same concept with the Young Farmers challenge of the RFO?	With one hectare, willing to be deployed, single 18-35 years old, physically fit, photocopy of the land title/declaration. Two will be deployed in each LSA Participants won't be the same as those who have received grants already.	
		Target with no fund such as IEC materials	It is incorporated on the Training expense	
		Success story on OA	To be funded by savings, if there are. Next, put a specific budget if it's a target.	
		DA-RFO title of trainings are same with ATIs	Training titles of RFO is subject for revision	
		TOT on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for Core PGS Groups in CAR, Batch 2	For the provinces to recommend participants. Open the slot to HR coop, provincial not municipal (Mt. Province or Kalings). RFO & ATI will decide which province to fund to avoid duplication	
Heirloom Rice, Pasil	Targeted next year Nurture the provincial coop since the facilities are already established. Additionally, integrate the municipal-based coop with the provincial coop. PAFES to take advantage of the banner program activities			
Harmonization of Schedules	The Regional Executive Director emphasized the need to streamline extension activities in 2024, ensuring harmonization both in planning and execution in the field. Proposing a synchronized schedule could facilitate integration and coherence in our operations. This proposal can be formally presented during the upcoming RMC meeting, encouraging our partner LGUs to align their schedules as well. Furthermore, the DA-RFO is expected to collaborate with the RTCs to integrate their respective training programs into the shared Google sheet. Provincial representatives agreed with this recommendation.			
Overlapping schedules with the Provinces	Identify provincial activities such as foundation days and festivals and input these events into Google Sheets. This information will be noted in the scheduling of ATI-CAR and DA-RFO-CAR activities.			



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
		PAFEC will be consulted by the ATI & RFO so they're encouraged to have their own schedule also as these are captured in the CPAFEP in terms of Title, budget & participants
	Which will prevail, CPAFEP or CPAFES	CPAFEP will prevail. Provinces to see which has a fund and align theirs
	HVCD & NUPA (National Urban & Peri-urban Agriculture) PROGRAM	
	on HVCD/NUPAP funding	HVCD has specific provincial commodities to prioritize but NUPA can consider other commodities outside this priority to fund.
	How to be considered as peri-urban for provincial commodities to be covered?	Review guidelines in the identification of NUPAP target especially in the areas of coverage for possible inclusion of other localities with urban/peri-urban characteristics
	Nursery operators	Consider the provincial or municipal nurseries to be accredited. Training for them towards accreditation is a need. Review those who were trained to be followed up if they can apply for accreditation Provincial focal person to identify which has the plan to establish or has an existing nursery for one Batch Training on the production of nursery plant materials. RSC to identify possible groups to be trained ATI-CAR (HVCDP) can reserve one training batch, provided that the province and RSC ensure the achievement of the target participants. The previous training request for seed inspectors fell short of the participant target. Organizations that have undergone training are encouraged to seek accreditation, while those already accredited are encouraged to renew their accreditation. Additionally, the completion of procurement documents is essential for organizations to meet the necessary procurement requirements. RSC to provide assistance. Shift the mindset from producing for direct acquisition (DA) to viewing it as a component of an investment, whether for an organization like FCA or for an individual.
	CORN AND CASSAVA PROGRAM (including Soybean)	
	AEW incentives	Consider updating of AEW profile in the ATI management listing/AEW Profiling as a requirement of the incentives. Same with other commodity program providing incentives.
	Soybean seed Production	When targeting interventions under the soybean program (COC), prioritize areas where there is a concurrent demand. In Apayao, a soybean feed mill is scheduled to be established next year. Abra was selected due to the presence of an existing feed mill operated by ADTEMPCO, and the region has been identified as a significant soybean-producing area.
	Soybean seed Production	Additionally, consider the market area so it should be market-driven. Establish the technical data first such as what variety will thrive in the area before going into production. Find FCA that would venture into soybean production then link them to the LGU.
	INFORMATION SERVICES	



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
	On the TV Broadcast, can ATI special event be aired also?	It covers not just the RFO but includes the DA Family as a whole.
	Radio Programs and other information campaigns	Did RAFFS survey who was really listening? How far did the information reach. Does this information really meet the needs of the listeners? A mini-information caravan or farmers forum by province is suggested so that more farmers will be informed. Techno-clinic may be considered to be done by the province
	Rapid Survey	Which IECs are maximized? Should we focus more on broadcast or printed? Need the help of our LGU partners for the survey during the rapid survey. May request from the FITS Centers which IECs are needed. May consider the Google survey form in the facilitation of the survey
	TOT on Digital Farmer Program, possible funding from RFO	Participants should include the regional and provincial banner focal person, as well as the Report Officer. This is to ensure the timely generation and submission of reports through the utilization of the online/digital platform.
	4DFarms (MEL)	DA-RFO as the lead in the operation of the MEL Tool under 4DFarms, 20 slots will be provided to DA-RFO especially staff from PMED, ResD, and FOD
	LIVESTOCK	
	Marketing on INSPIRE/LIVESTOCK products	INSPIRE is in Partnership with AMAD to address the market linkage issue Farmers may have their own market booth during the festivals, and regional activities conducted by DA
	TOT on Meat processing for AEWs	Graduates of this TOT are expected to implement similar farmer-level training. As ATI-CAR can only fund one batch, as result RFO is to fund the remaining re-entry plan covering 5 provinces/batch
	RICE	
	ABE training	For possible inclusion of feasibility study in the module (by ATI-CAR) Feasibility study training can be the next training after the Autocat to be funded by the RFO ATI & RFO to coordinate with RAED to come up with priority projects and identify participants from the LGUs
	Farmers Field School	It should follow the CRFBS curriculum
	Retooling for Rice seed inspectors and Seed growers	Training program for rice seed inspectors is programmed under RCEF Prioritized the active growers and inspectors Roving training be conducted to motivate them Provinces under PAFES can incorporate training for seed inspectors into their plans, with ATI-CAR and/or DA-RFO-CAR providing the necessary resource persons
	REGULAR PROGRAM	
	RBO	RBO can target training on meat processing in support to the graduates of TOT on meat processing



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
	Special Projects (SAAD; Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) program)	
	SAAD Phase II	Training on micro-enterprises should be based on the FCA's needs
	Harmonization of Special projects with the Regular Banner programs	RFO to meet and integrate F2C2, SAAD & BP2 targets to the Regular Banner Programs. What's their delineation with the Regular program?
	Intervention by Province	Provide the provinces with the breakdown of PPAs with direct project cost
		ATI to consolidate the presentation by December 1 through Google Drive; DA-RFO-CAR to input their plans and budget to the template
		Provinces, ATI-CAR, and RFO to input their AF extension activities to the 2024 CALENDAR of Training and Other Related Activities of CAR
		The activity was conducted on November 24, 2023 attended by 26 participants.

Prepared by:

BRANDY L. BANDA-AY

M & E/Designated Report Officer

Date: December 1, 2023

Noted by:

MARJANO R. ARCMIN, Jr.

Office-In-Charge

Date: December 1, 2023