



## MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### SEPTEMBER | 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><b>TRAINING ON ON-FARM EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS USING STATISTICAL TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (STAR) SOFTWARE</b></p> <p>On-farm experiments have become increasingly important in agricultural research and decision-making processes, providing valuable insights into the performance of different farming practices and technologies under real-world conditions. There is a growing need for training programs that equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to design and analyze on-farm experiments effectively. The training was focused on statistical concepts and methods specifically relevant to on-farm experimental data, such as randomization, replication, blocking, and analysis of variance (ANOVA). It also introduced participants to the STAR (Statistical Tools for Agricultural Research) software, a powerful tool for analyzing on-farm experimental data. The STAR software provides a user-friendly interface and a wide range of statistical analyses tailored to agricultural experiments.</p> <p>By learning to navigate and utilize the STAR software, participants will gain practical skills to analyze data efficiently, generate meaningful graphical representations, and extract valuable insights to inform decision-making. Training programs focusing on on-farm experimental design and data analysis promote knowledge sharing and capacity building within the agricultural community. Effective on-farm experimental design and analysis can be crucial in promoting sustainable and efficient farming practices. The training will emphasize the importance of sustainable agriculture and provide participants with the tools to make informed decisions that balance productivity and environmental stewardship.</p> <p>The participants were able to learn the significance of proper experiment design, including selecting appropriate treatments, randomization, replication, and control measures, and geared them with the necessary knowledge on conducting on-farm experiments to yield reliable and meaningful results. This five-day training was completed by 22 participants on September 18-22, at ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p><b>Learnings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The knowledge on the experimental designs would help ensure proper implementation the conduct of research experiments including proper analysis.</li> <li>• With the introduction of Statistical Tools for Agricultural Research (STAR) software it will certainly make the researchers life easier in analyzing, interpreting/ generating conclusions from his/her statistical data for as long as data gathering and data entry in the application is done correctly.</li> <li>• STAR is indeed easy to use tool in agricultural research. However, it is recommended for the first-time users to explore first the application.</li> <li>• The star app is very essential tool to help ease computations of experiment variables for analyzation.</li> <li>• The training made me realize the importance of knowing each experiment designs since these will guide me or what appropriate experimental design to use in conducting research. It shows that we need to consider many factors such as your objectives, management, resources, etc. in deciding what design to be used. Moreover, a statistical tool like the STAR software is really a big help to a researcher. It is easier to operate unlike other statistical tools with complicated procedures that are difficult to follow.</li> </ul>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>TOT BATCH 5: TRAINING ON POTATO VARIETAL CHARACTERIZATION AND FIELD INSPECTION PRACTICUM FOR POTATO SEED INSPECTORS OF CAR PHASE 3</b></p> <p>For the past years, local farmers have been recycling their tuber seeds or importing planting materials due to a lack of locally produced certified tuber seeds. The Department of Agriculture aims to improve the sustainability of potato farming by helping farmers access to farm inputs, training, and market opportunities. Based on a series of consultations and meetings by the stakeholders, the agency also partnered with URC to procure quality potato tubers in consultation with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and distributed to selected farmer cooperatives in the provinces of Benguet, Davao, and Bukidnon in March 2020. In 2021, the DA also partnered with Benguet State University to produce Au7di planting materials for selected farmer groups.</p> <p>With these, there are potato farmers with a total land area of 24.6 hectares who submitted their application to BPI for accreditation to be potato seed producers. To facilitate the monitoring and inspection of these applicants, the DA RFO requested training to capacitate the Potato Seed Inspectors of the region to efficiently do their job. In response, the Center conducted Phases 1 and 2 focusing on potato seed production and certification (Phase 1) and potato production with emphasis on pest and disease identification and management. With all the inputs for phases 1 and 2, they are now ready for a practicum on varietal identification at different stages of the crop, pest, and disease identification and recommendations for management.</p> <p>This training was conducted at the Dammuhan Hall of ATI-TRC-CAR on September 9-15, 2023. Twenty-six (26) AEWs, one (1) farmer, and three (3) others attended this training.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"The Training is very much necessary for us, seed inspectors, because we were reminded of our roles and obligations in the field. We hope for the next phase of this."</i> Michael Bugtong, DA-RFO-CAR</p> <p><i>"Even though I didn't join Phase 2, I was still glad to join this phase 3. I learned that in our place, our soil is not very nutrient but as suggested in our training, the other remedy is to put up green house wherein we can plant seedlings."</i> Novy Cangat, LGU Mankayan, Benguet</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>TRAINING FOR CERTIFIED PARTICIPATORY SYSTEM (PGS) GROUPS TOWARDS ACCREDITATION AS ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES, BATCH 3</b></p> <p>The Training aims for participants to adopt and comply with the PGS requirements and be accredited as Organic Certifying Bodies. Also, to establish and operationalize PGS groups consistent with the organic agriculture standards and corresponding technical regulations. This was conducted in Sagada, Mt. Province on September 18-22, 2023, and attended by 21 farmers. Some of them shared their learnings from the training such as things to do for the improvement of the farm before the inspection, recording all the activities on the farm that are important, roles and responsibilities of the Peer Review, and the challenges in providing documentary evidence during inspection, etc.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"I deeply appreciated the training, as it emphasized the significance of adhering to the Manual of Operations, Internal Standards, and the latest PNS for achieving MOAPAs accreditation as organic certifying bodies. This training has enlightened us about the invaluable advantages that come with becoming certified OA practitioner." Alfa Cawis, Besao</i></p> <p><i>"I recently had the opportunity to refresh my knowledge about functions, duties and responsibilities of the various committees within PGS. Additionally, I gained a deeper understanding of the accreditation criteria for PGS groups. It also equipped me with the special skills and insights on how to conduct Peer review inspections effectively. Furthermore, the updated PNS for Organic Crop Production served as a reminder of the importance of strict adherence to this standards to ensure a successful inspection process." Marilee Lucaney</i></p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>RCEF-Training on Integrated Rice-Based Farming System for Farmers, Batch 4</b></p> <p>The Rice-Based Integrated Farming System (RBIFS) has been practiced by the indigenous peoples of Kalinga and Ifugao for thousands of years. This traditional farming system involves the simultaneous cultivation of rice paddies, fishponds, vegetable gardens, and livestock production in the same agricultural land. The RBIFS is a sustainable approach to agriculture that maximizes resource efficiency, increases productivity, diversifies income, and promotes climate resilience. In this training, the participants learned the proper application of fertilizers and the benefits of the PalayCheck System, and they convened to demonstrate a rice-based integrated or diversified farming system by planting vegetables and integrating chicken production utilizing the distributed starter kits. This three-day training was conducted on September 12-14, 2023, at Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga, and completed by 31 participants.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"I am truly grateful for this training for I have seen the wrong practice that should be corrected in my rice production. Also, integrating various crops in our production would not limit our resources especially since it could be a one source of our food. And I hope that all of us would practice the technology that was taught to us maximizing the starter kits that will be distributed to us." Roberto Tomonggao, Rice Farmer- Tanudan, Kalinga</i></p> <p><i>"This training has provided us with a variety of agricultural techniques that we can confidently disseminate within our community and to our constituents. We received valuable guidance regarding the optimal timing for fertilizer application. Over the course of the training, I came to appreciate the abundance of resources that can greatly benefit my rice production efforts. One particular lesson that resonated with me was the concept of Palay Check System which is very helpful and very substantive." Rodolfo Anggaco, Rice Farmer- Tanudan, Kalinga</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>Farmer-Scientist Training Program Phase III</b></p> <p>The Farmer-Scientist Training Program has three phases. During Phase I, farmers and scientists set up experimental plots of corn to compare the effects of organic fertilizers versus inorganic fertilizers, IPM, varietal trials, intercropping systems, and others. It also emphasized the cultivation of the farmers' minds for the love of God, country, and people. Phase II is all about On-Farm Experimentation and Technology Adoption, where farmers replicate their research experiences in Phase I on their farms. They set up experiments with the assistance of scientists/experts and agricultural technicians to determine which production technologies are adoptable in their farms. Phase III is about Farmer-to-Farmer Technology Transfer and Adoption, where the farmer-scientists share their expertise by teaching untrained fellow farmers how to generate and develop farming technologies based on their Phase I and II experiences and conducted Phase I of FSTP at the barangay level.</p> <p>In 2022, an FSTP Phase I was targeted, but there are no interested LGU implementers to attend the training. Since there was an ongoing Phase II in Tabuk City, they decided to continue Phase III to complete the training cycle within the year. However, Phase II ended in the last quarter of 2022, which allowed Phase III to continue through 2023. In the case of this FSTP Phase III, the farmer-scientists who finished Phase I and Phase II are from Balawag, Tabuk City, and they set up an experimental farm in Cabaruan, Tabuk City, Kalinga. Twenty-nine (29) farmer-members of the Masaway Corn Farmers Association in Cabaruan were the recipients of their sharing of experiences. FSTP Phase III activities started on April 7, 2023, and the last session was on August 17, 2023. The graduation was held on August 24, 2023.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"I want to thank our facilitators for their patience in sharing their time and expertise with us from the start of all the activities until the end. From our field experiments, we have observed from the IPM trials that the earwigs are the best to combat fall armyworm, which I really appreciated. Our harvest from these plots was really good quality - long cobs, big kernels, and the like. I hope that the next trainings will be on the production of earwigs so that we won't have to buy sprays anymore." Danila Looy, Cabaruan, Tabuk City</i></p> <p><i>"From our activities in the field, I now know how to study a plant and how one can improve production, which involves a lot of activities, proper management and a lot of field visits. Your visits to your field and crops can have an effect on your productivity. To all who imparted their knowledge to us, my sincerest gratitude. To my co-participants, let us not hesitate to share what we have learned from this training program." Jimmy Dalmacio, Balawag, Tabuk City</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>ORIENTATION ON THE PRODUCTION STANDARDS (GAHP AWIA) AND CRAFTING OF OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR INSPIRE BENEFICIARIES OF CAR</b></p> <p>The course is designed to enhance the entrepreneurial competencies or skills of the recipients of the INSPIRE Projects given by the DA-RFO-CAR for farmer associations in the Cordillera Administrative Region in the development and improvement of pig enterprises. The program aims to hasten the repopulation program of the Department of Agriculture on swine that was greatly devastated by the ASF. In addition, now that the farms were established, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI-CAR) believes that enterprise development programs are one effective support mechanism to improve productivity and sustainability of the program. The 3-day course focused on the discovery and rediscover of the participants' entrepreneurial potential, creativity, values orientation, strategy development, project identification and pre-business plan awareness. It was participated by 22 coop members on September 12-14, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR BSU Compound.</p> <p>The beneficiaries agreed that they will enhance their Operations Manual (OM) based on the feedback of resource speakers and submit enhanced OM to DA-RFO-CAR for finalization. Meanwhile on the part of ATI-RTC-CAR they agreed to conduct a detailed training regarding the Animal Welfare Act and Good Animal Husbandry Practices for the officers, farm workers and members of the beneficiaries for 2024 for qualified beneficiaries.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"Thank you very much for all the learnings from this training. Kudos to all our resource speakers. It is a great help for us since format is already provided in crafting our operations manual at least, we have a guide. Let us try to comply with the requirements and make this project attain its objective. Thank you, ATI, for accommodating us and to our co-participants. I hope to meet you again soon."</i> Ms. Marivic C. Bagnit, Association President. Bugnay-Pacak Farmers Association, Inc.</p> <p><i>"On behalf of HMFDC, we express our appreciation for this activity which is very important in implementing the INSPIRE project. We learned a lot, and in the process of crafting operations manual, we really see its significance. Thank you very much."</i> Ms. Cathy A. Abrazado, member of Hungduan Micro Finance Development Cooperative</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>TRAINING ON POST-HARVEST AND FOOD SAFETY, SAFE FOOD HANDLING, GRADING, SORTING AND CLASSIFICATION OF MAJOR HIGHLAND VEGETABLE CROPS FOR ACCREDITED STALL OWNERS, SELLERS, AND PACKERS OF BENGUET AGRI-PINOY TRADING CENTER BATCH 1</b></p> <p>Food safety is very critical to all agricultural fresh produce, especially for fruits and vegetables. The number one issue among its consumers is the maintenance and improvement of fresh produce safety from field to fork. Fresh fruits and vegetables are often thought of as healthy and nutritious foods. Eating more fruits and vegetables is essential for good health due to its low calories and fats, high fiber content, and lots of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. However, foodborne illness outbreaks have been traced to fresh vegetables and juices. These incidents have caused growers, shippers, distributors, retailers, and importers to re-evaluate the fresh fruit and vegetable production and handling practices.</p> <p>The Benguet Agri Pinoy Trading Complex (BAPTC) was established as a Trading Center in the region with the vision to be a world-class model Trading Center that empowers farmers and offers quality and safe agricultural products. The BAPTC aims to ensure compliance and strict adherence to quality standards and food safety regulations and policies among its workers. Thus, to fulfill the vision and objectives, the newly accredited farmers, packers, and porters of the Trading Center should be equipped with knowledge of the standards of safe food handling, grading, sorting, and classification of highland vegetables. The training was completed by 30 participants on August 29-31, 2023, Dam-muhan Hall, DA-ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>It was agreed during the training that the participants should disseminate to their fellow farmers the lessons learned in the training.</p> <p><i>Impressions:</i></p> <p><i>"I would like to thank our facilitators for all the learnings and new knowledge added. We will cherish and pass on the knowledge to our fellow farmers also in our association. Thank you for the opportunity." Jeferson Paniki, Sanling Sikap Farmers Association, La Trinidad</i></p> <p><i>"I would like to thank the facilitators of this training for granting our request for this training. This training is really a big help for us when it comes to GAP and Food Safety concerns. I appreciate the venue and the food. I assure you that in the next training sessions our number here as participants will be doubled. I will inform my colleagues of the advantages of attending these kinds of training sessions." John Ayawan, SFA, La Trinidad.</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>CAPABILITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT ON URBAN AGRICULTURE</b></p> <p>Under 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 the policy direction of the DA to increase food production and lessen the logistic costs to soften the impact of global concerns like food security, climate change and the rising costs of fuel and other inputs. It also creates alternative livelihood opportunities in collaboration with Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies (NGAs), private sectors, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other interested stakeholders.</p> <p>Urban Agriculture contributes to food security and food safety by increasing the amount of food available to city dwellers. Urban poor families could grow their food, right in their backyards or in any available space around their households. It makes fresh vegetables and fruits more accessible to consumers. Engaging in urban agriculture could help mitigate hunger and malnutrition. It also promotes sustainable ecological practices, including waste management.</p> <p>Organic concoctions can be valuable tools in supporting the health and productivity of your urban agriculture endeavors, while also minimizing the use of synthetic chemicals. Producing organic concoctions typically refers to the process of creating organic mixtures or solutions using natural and locally available ingredients. It can be made for various purposes, such as organic fertilizer for plants and natural pest and disease control solutions. Moreover, it focuses on nurturing plants in a way that promotes natural soil fertility, biodiversity, and ecological balance.</p> <p>On the other hand, edible landscaping is a wonderful approach to organic vegetable production that combines both the beauty and functionality of ornamental landscaping with the productivity of growing edible plants. It involves designing and growing plants that are not visually appealing but also provide food for consumption. Instead of planting purely ornamental flowers and shrubs, edible landscaping incorporates fruits, vegetables, herbs, and other edible plants into the garden layout. It offers many benefits, such as reducing grocery bills, promoting sustainability, and increasing self-sufficiency. Additionally, edible landscapes can attract beneficial insects and wildlife. The need for edible landscaping is gaining more interest due to the increasing population and spreading of urban communities worldwide as it functions in multiple ways. Hence, this activity design.</p> <p>Five batches of training were conducted throughout the month. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="618 1066 2205 1359"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batches</th> <th>Venue</th> <th>Title</th> <th>No. of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 26</td> <td>Suyang, Tabuk City, Kalinga</td> <td>Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 26: Organic Vegetable Production with Provision of Starter Kits</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 27</td> <td>Calanan, Tabuk City, Kalinga</td> <td>Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 27: Edible Landscaping as approach to Organic Vegetable Production with Provision of Starter Kits</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 28</td> <td>Calanan, Tabuk City, Kalinga</td> <td>Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 28: Production of Organic Concoctions and Extracts</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 29</td> <td>Ipil, Tabuk City, Kalinga</td> <td>Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 29: Edible Landscaping as approach to Organic Vegetable Production with Provision of Starter Kits</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Batches	Venue	Title	No. of Pax	Batch 26	Suyang, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 26: Organic Vegetable Production with Provision of Starter Kits	28	Batch 27	Calanan, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 27: Edible Landscaping as approach to Organic Vegetable Production with Provision of Starter Kits	25	Batch 28	Calanan, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 28: Production of Organic Concoctions and Extracts	25	Batch 29	Ipil, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Capability Building in Support to Community Garden Establishment on Urban Agriculture Batch 29: Edible Landscaping as approach to Organic Vegetable Production with Provision of Starter Kits	27
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		<p>The participants were able to learn how to make cocktails concoctions to save labor cost, choose quality seeds for successful crop production, and understand the climatic requirements of different crops and choose the right crops for their climate and soil condition to optimize crop yield and reduce the risk of crop failure. Moreover, they were encouraged to produce open-pollinated varieties of crops rather than hybrid seeds to produce their own seeds for future planting, to elevate their seedling trays and to build a stronger foundation of their nursery house in case of flooding and strong typhoons, continue to uphold their organization and sustain their community garden as they share a vast contribution in supplying fruits, vegetables, and herbs to the neighborhoods. As for their agreement they were tasked to submit the organization's semestral report, organizational profile, and development plan completion report or liquidation report for the financial assistance they have received last year.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our visitors, the staff of ATI-RTC-CAR and the City Agriculture Office. Thank you for this activity as we have learned a lot of things about organic vegetable production and producing concoctions using locally available materials and with just minimum spent. We hope that you will again invite us for more activities or training like this."</i> Celina Addamag, Organization Adviser</p> <p><i>"On behalf of the RIC Calanan Chapter, we want to express our gratitude to everyone behind this activity. As a first timer to attend activities like this, I am beyond thankful as I have gained knowledge on vegetable production and concoction making. I will surely apply this to our community garden and to my backyard garden. And to my co-members, I encourage you all to continue and to adopt the technologies they have shared."</i> Lany Magliya</p>			





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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Training	<p><b>TRAINING ON SMART AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES (SATS)-DIGITAL AGRICULTURE</b></p> <p>Agriculture worldwide is increasingly becoming technology-driven with farmers using more and more ICT-based technologies and techniques to increase their productivity and income. Filipino farmers, however, are less receptive. For developing countries like the Philippines, applying technology to the agriculture sector is slow and is still in the starting phase due to reasons such as lack of accessibility, availability, and awareness of the technology; lack of government initiatives to push these innovations and provide incentives to progressive farmers; and resistance of farmers to new technologies.</p> <p>The training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (SATS) are digital technologies used to maximize and increase productivity while limiting yield waste. With these, farmers can lower labor and production costs and increase the volume and quality of yield. Some examples of SATs include the Internet of Things (IoT), automation, and blockchain. SAT focus will be the different web and mobile apps designed by the Department of Agriculture and drone technology. Hence, the Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (SATS) - Digital Agriculture hopes to show farmers the importance and benefits of SATs. The said training was participated by 20 participants on September 14, 2023, at Jacob's Farm, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao.</p> <p>Participants learned the following Agri apps that are useful for their farming activities, and they also realized that farmers should be digitally literate and maximize the use of social media for product promotion.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"This is something that we really have to think about and consider since mechanization is indeed becoming a necessity in rice production." Mr. Kenneth I. Jacob, Nannama, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao</i></p> <p><i>"It is indeed a privilege to be one of the participants in this activity and as one of the trainers here in Jacob's Farm I got more and new insights on how farm mechanization, specially through drone technology, can be realized, can be made real and practical right in the farm. This will further encourage us to put more emphasis on farm mechanization during our learning sessions and of course this will also give us some idea on how we can craft and execute better plans for our own farms and for our organizations." Ms. Mirriam Bullago, Nannama, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p><b>4-H YOUNG FARMERS' REGIONAL CONVENTION/ SUPPORT TO 4-H YOUNG FARMERS</b></p> <p>The Department of Agriculture (DA) family amidst the pandemic continued to train and empower young "agri-preneurs" to take the reins from aging farm-leaders, help attain food security, and push Philippine agriculture into the future. Since the start of the pandemic, the youth has been providing new perspectives, demonstrating entrepreneurial leadership, and mobilizing new movements that are proving beneficial to farm, fishery, and agribusiness sectors in the countryside. The 4-H Club is a rural youth organization, whose thousands of members have been benefiting from the various programs of the DA, from capacity-building to accessing business capital. The said activity was participated by 66 participants from different parts of Cordillera on September 8-10, 2023, at Aspihan Hall, BSU Compound.</p> <p>The participants were able to learn the 9 elements of the business model canvas, registering the business in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Trade Names, Agripreneurship, and Entrepreneur Characters in the Bible. It was also agreed in the activity that the winner during the contest would be the representative of CAR during the 71st 4H Young Farmers' National Convention.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"For this convention, it's a great blessing knowing that there is a 4H and there is this activity. It's amazing knowing and seeing each other is a great time for us. For my impression in this convention, it's nice that per province we were able to know each other though it's a little disappointing that we were few because of maybe different reasons. To fully market the 4H to the youth I think that we need to show that we are doing something. About the lessons, the topic on registering our business made an impact with me and with the entrepreneurship in which Biblical aspect was incorporated. That is all and thank you for coming."</i> Fresly Cuaban, Benguet</p> <p><i>"A pleasant morning to everyone, first we thank God because we are here. There are many learnings from this training. As an agriculturist the topics we had here are related especially on how to put up and register a business. These are very nice steppingstone in starting what we can do soon. We can also share our learnings in the community when we go home."</i> Wilmer Ayawan, Mt. Province.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p><b>ROLL OUT OF INTEGRATED RICE INTERVENTIONS MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLATFORM UNDER 4DFARMS</b></p> <p>As the world transitioned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (4<sup>th</sup> IR), the Department of Agriculture adapted to modernize the agriculture industry through digitalization. One of the ways to digitalize the sector is with the use of Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM). As a result, the DA, in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) developed the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service (RCMAS) which provides a one-page Rice crop management advisory tool that encompasses various stages of rice crop production such as crop establishment, fertilizer, pesticide, irrigation, and weed management practices as well harvest prediction through historical data and crop variety characteristics.</p> <p>This tool has been proven to be a complimentary tool in various programs of the department. It has been used as the basis for the distribution of fertilizer vouchers through the Rice Resiliency Program (RRP) as well as the farm and farm lot registration as the basis for the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA) to which it provides data on a farm lot size of the farmer. However, data shows that there is low adoption of the RCMAS due to several factors. Hence, the DA and IRRI enhanced the RCMAS to broaden the reach and adoption of RCMAS and monitor the adoption of various programs of the department.</p> <p>The 4DFarms' monitoring evaluation and learning (MEL) application shall serve as a digital tool for DA's Rice Program to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the various rice program interventions for farmers. The intensive training and hands-on exercise on random sampling procedure and familiarization with the MEL application and its use would ensure quality information for analysis and reporting. The activity was intended to capacitate partners to serve as enumerators in their respective regions for a seamless rollout of the MEL application that is expected to provide reliable information and reporting for DA Management. It was conducted on September 19-21, 2023 in Tabuk City, Kalunga, completed by 31 participants.</p> <p><b>Impressions:</b></p> <p><i>"I would like to thank you for the ATI for considering us to participate in this activity. As representative of the Learning Sites for Agriculture we are very proud to say that we gain knowledge on this training. It is now that we understand the importance of saying the correct answer when someone ask information about our field. Wrong answer means a lot specially in giving incentives or say subsidy just like giving the right field size. If we have field size of 2 hectare for instance, we should give the exact size because if we give wrong information say 1 hectare and the government give you only 1 sack of seed, that is your own fault because you give the wrong information. This training helps us that when they ask for correct data, we have to give the correct data so that they will also give the right "help" to us." Ms. Alma Mae Cortez</i></p> <p><i>"Thank you for inviting us also because the MEL tool enlightened me about the fertilizer and seed subsidy that the government is giving to the farmers. Now that I understand how this tool has helped us to understand how important data is all about. Kudos to the resource person for explaining step-by-step process regarding the MEL tool. During the interview, I was able to confidently interview the farmer." Mr. Roderick Santiago</i></p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Learn)	Other AF	<p><b>2023 CAR LGU TRAINERS ASSEMBLY: THE ATI TRAINED LGU TRAINERS</b></p> <p>With the training interventions conducted for the AEWs through the years, the Center hopes to find results through the success of the training, technologies, and practices cascaded to the stakeholders at the LGU level. Hence, this activity is an avenue to input on Success Story Writing for them to be able to properly document the results of their training, coaching, and mentoring in their localities. Also, the guidelines for the Search for Performing Trainers which will be implemented again in 2024 will be presented. As active partners in extension, performing trainers will be recognized in 2024 in sincere appreciation of their efforts in bringing extension to the farmers and other groups and stakeholders in their localities.</p> <p>The activity was conducted virtually through the Google Meet platform and was attended by 30 LGU trainers 22 were female. Ms. Betty Listino, Senior Consultant of Pansigedan Advocacy Cooperative, provided inputs on success story writing &amp; presented the draft guideline for the search for top-performing ATI-trained LGU trainers for 2024 implementation.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"In behalf of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Itogon, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the proponents of this insightful session. The knowledge and insights I have gained today are valuable, and I am eager to share them with my officemates who are planning to submit their entries. This learning here are not only beneficial for our professional endeavour but also holds great potential for personal growth. Once again, thank you so much for this opportunity."</i> Marjorie Casilla, Agricultural Technologist, Itogon, Benguet</p> <p><i>"Good afternoon, everyone. We would like to express our gratitude for this activity. While we truly value the insightful topics and workshops, we believe that conducting this training in a face-to-face setting might enhance our understanding even further. We are thankful for the knowledge shared on crafting a successful story, and we're excited to apply these skills as we anticipate to submit our own output also."</i> Janice Lizardo, Senior Agriculturist, Bontoc, Mountain Province</p> <p><i>"First of all, I would like to thank ATI-CAR for organizing this activity. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this training, and I commend ATI-CAR for consistently shaping our skills through their training programs. Attending this training has been a fortunate experience for me, as it has equipped me with lots of knowledge, particularly in writing a success story. I'm already enthusiastic about putting this knowledge into practice and creating concise, impactful success stories as discussed by our Resource Speaker. Once more, thank you for this opportunity."</i> Jane Dela Rosa, Agricultural Technologist, Luna, Apayao</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Exhibit)	Field Monitoring, Validation, and Documentation	<p>Throughout the month various validation and monitoring for LSAs and CUAMFs were undertaken:</p> <p><b>VALIDATION OF CUAMF APPLICANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☉ <b>Balong Centro RIC</b> - is an active organization, identified with and endorsed by the City of Agriculture Office. They were not able to comply with the requirements hence, the need for the Center to look for another organized group. Since they are qualified based on the basic criteria, they were asked to comply and submit the requirements. In support of the organization, OCAS will assist them in the preparation of proposals to be submitted to ATI-RTC-CAR, as soon as possible for obligation.</li><li>☉ <b>Nambaran RIC</b> - not yet recommended to become community urban garden since water source is not sustainable.</li></ul> <p><b>CUAMF MONITORING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☉ <b>Talodoc Bulanao Womens Organization (TBWO)</b> - was established as CUAMF last October 10, 2018, and will expire on October 10, 2023. Ms. Esnara's group called for a meeting with the TBWO officers, however, only Mrs. Sulca came since the rest were not available. She expressed her gratitude to both OPAG and ATI for the project since the project served as their source of food for the previous years, especially during the pandemic.</li></ul> <p><b>VALIDATION OF LSA APPLICANT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☉ <b>Mayumi Jay Farm (Rizal, Kalinga)</b> - is GAP certified and endorsed by MLGU Rizal and PLGU Kalinga. Since there is no budget for the enhancement of LSA and the farm is very much qualified, Ms. Esnara suggested enhancement without financial assistance, to which he agreed since he is very much interested in sharing his technologies and encouraging others. If still interested, Ms. Esnara advised him to submit the requirements.</li></ul> <p><b>LSA MONITORING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>☉ <b>Mansajaw Farm</b> - according to Mrs. Rachel Maling, the owner, she is now full-time managing the farm operations. She has staff helping her in the conduct of training and keeping records and financial statements. She is also active in assisting farming enthusiasts in the province and other organic farming organizations. As per observations, the farm has lots of improvements and developments in terms of facilities. Ms. Esnara reminded the owner to apply for GAP certification to check her farm operations or practices.</li></ul>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Exhibit)	Field Monitoring, Validation, and Documentation	<p>📍 Green Valley Farm owned and managed by Mr. Johnny Carillo. His GAP certification has expired; thus, he is required to renew so he could be one of those to be inspected by National Inspectors this October 2023.</p> <p>DOCUMENTATION OF LSA TECHNOLOGIES</p> <p>📍 LSA Langbayan's Farm - owned by Mr. Albert Langbayan who specialized in citrus production. Documented his pruning and harvesting practices.</p> <p>📍 Salt and Pepper Farm - owned by Ms. Saie Peikas. Documented her use of microorganisms in their farming activities especially that the planting areas are under pine tree condition.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Advise)		No advisory services provided for this month
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Disseminate)	Success Story	<p>Baby Angeline Tello, a person with dedication</p> <p><i>"Hindi hadlang ang pagiging person with disability para gawin ang gusto mong gawin."</i> Cliché as it may sound – but this is the real-life story of Baby Angeline, also called as Maan for others.</p> <p>On August 28, 2023, Miss Jala Sagge-ey facilitated the documentation through an informal interview with the LSA owner Baby Angeline Tello of Uba, Aguinaino, Ifugao for the documentation of RCEF exemplar beneficiary. The success story highlighted her journey on how she became LSA as a partner in the RCEF-identified areas. The Baby Angeline Integrated Farm is still at its initial stage of operation, thus the farm school needed to shell out its finances to pay for the other costs being incurred in implementing the FFS courses. Baby Angeline faced many challenges and issues in her life, and despite that, she happily shared that it took her faith in God to overcome those. Even at this point, she knows that she will be facing many issues as she embarks on another vacation, she is still confident that she will rise above as God will be with her all the way.</p>
	Information Caravan	<p>DA Information Caravan</p> <p>A Department of Agriculture Information Caravan was conducted on August 30, 2023, at Tabuk City, Kalinga. Regional Technical Director (RTD) Danilo Daguio emphasized in his message that a well-informed client helps with the smooth and easy implementation of the programs. Hence, this activity serves as an avenue for the representatives from the different bureaus and attached agencies of DA to share and disseminate the government's programs and projects along with the requirements to the clients of DA. For the DA-ATI-RTC-CAR booth, printed IEC materials were distributed to the interested farmers. Participated by Ms. Jala Sagge-ey and Mr. Jaypee Na-oy.</p>



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	Development and Dissemination of Knowledge Products and Services	<p>Throughout the month, a total of 450 copies of Knowledge Products (KP) were reproduced and 1,200 copies of KP were disseminated, 2 success stories published and 3 success stories documented.</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>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Monitoring	<p><b>SWAIB Project Livestock – INSPIRE Program</b></p> <p>Engr. Windel Baaten 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 PLGU of Mountain Province thru the Provincial Veterinary Office which is the primary beneficiary of the Program and is being constructed at the Provincial Nursery, Otucan Norte, Bauko, Mountain Province.</p> <p>The monitoring was done on September 14-15, 2023, and physical accomplishment as of the date of monitoring and inspection is 56.20%. As for the weather conditions, it is fair with frequent moderate rains in the afternoon.</p> <p>A follow-up field monitoring was held on September 25-27, 2023, physical accomplishment as of the date of monitoring and inspection is 63.70%. The weather condition is still the same causing the access road to the project site to be slippery and inaccessible to hauling equipment thus aggregates and other materials are being double hauled which causes delays and additional costs.</p> <p><b>CBF MAFF PROJECT</b></p> <p>Mr. Romualdo Bantag went to check the status of the last cycle of potato production under the CBF Project in Balili, Mankayan on September 19-22, 2023.</p> <p>At present the potato crops of the 3 FCAS of the last potato production cycle are in the reproductive stage. The potato crops of SW Milagros Pacio of Manpat-a Farmers Agricultural Cooperative and Ms. Analyn Patangan of Raniag Farmers Association who planted on July 22, 2023, are now at 65 days after planting while the potato crop of Ms. Melba Anamong of Biesdam Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. who planted on July 29, 2023, is at 58 days after planting. All the potato crops of the 3FCAS were not infected by late blight and all plants were vigorous but few plants were wilted. Infected by bacterial wilt. The crops were expected to be harvested in the last week of October. Moreover, it was agreed between the 3 presidents of the 3 FCAS that the procured 3 sets of Soil testers under the CBF MAFF Project will be given to the C FCAS on the time of the visit of the ASEAN PMT on November 26, 2023, to December 01, 2023.</p> <p><b>FARM FAMILY PARTNER</b></p> <p>Ms. Enaras' group heads to Tabuk City, Kalinga, to conduct a series of monitoring on September 4-8, 2023. The Rural Group for Transformation Farming Family Partner was established in 2018 and provided with multipurpose processing and a marketing area. Findings showed that the Project Swine funded under OCAS is still being revolved as cash among the members, and the HYTA project from DA still exists. In addition, it is registered under DOLE, accredited by DA as a farmer organization, and encouraged to apply for CSO at DA RFO CAR.</p>



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		<p><b>2023 FYFIPT GRADUATE</b></p> <p>Ms. Esneras' group conducted a monitoring on Mr. Kevin Sacki, a graduate of FYFIPT this 2023. According to him, he couldn't submit a proposal since he is planning to apply for Overseas Worker to earn money to have a budget to operate and develop their farm.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Forum	<p>Participation to Sablan's Farmers' Forum- Fruit Festival</p> <p>The activity's highlight was the technology forum cum techno clinic facilitated by the College of Agriculture of the Benguet State University led by CA Dean Constantino Sudaypan and participated by the various farmers (farmers' associations and cooperatives) for the municipality. During the activity, instead of a lecture type, Dr. Sudaypan used a question-and-answer style wherein he answered the farmers' queries and issues regarding agriculture.</p> <p>Attended by Ms. Jala Sagge-ey and Mr. Raul Leung of ATI-RTC-CAR on September 3, 2023, at Sablan, Benguet.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Planning Workshop	<p><b>ATI-RTC-CAR CY 2023 SEM 2 INHOUSE PLANNING ACTIVITY FOR FY2024 WFP</b></p> <p>The ATI-RTC-CAR management and its technical and support personnel intended to draw strategies and plans of action to efficiently and effectively deliver the programs, projects, and activities targeted for AFE sectors. The FY 2024 Calendar of Activities, the summary of TOAs to be carried out In-Center and Off-Center, and the PAFES proposed FY 2024 interventions were presented. This sought to strategically plan the operations to maximize resource use (about TOAs to be carried out In-Center and Off-Center) and avoid duplication of objectives (regarding PAFES interventions). This was conducted on September 25-26, 2023 at ATI-RTC-CAR's Aspulan Hall and was attended by 43 staff.</p> <p>After which, the following agreements and ways forward were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Include a 10-day Memo on the Cost of meals, lodging, hall &amp; Vehicle rental. In terms of Hall rental, specify if it has complete equipment (eg. fan or AC, wifi, sound system) to avoid significant changes in the cost.</li><li>2. Hire vehicles to handle the driver's meals expense. Lessen Transportation expenses by maximizing the bus, pass the request at most 2 weeks before the travel to be posted in Philgeps, and input training and activity schedules in the google calendar of activities.</li><li>3. PAFES Training plans can be harmonized to the ATI-RTC-CAR Trainings.</li><li>4. To follow the FBAS guideline in the Entrepreneurial skills &amp; Enterprise Development Trainings.</li><li>5. On EBEC, to consider rescheduling since September is mostly typhoon affected.</li><li>6. All LSA to be at least GAP certified.</li><li>7. The term "Adopt a farm youth" will be changed in 2024.</li><li>8. Consider the use and accessibility of QGIS.</li><li>9. Request for Training on Nursery establishment.</li><li>10. Don't use "turn".</li><li>11. Support to 4 H Club not "convention" anymore and singing &amp; beauty contest will be removed.</li><li>12. Specify the title of the capability building.</li></ol>





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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Planning Workshop	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. To integrate EPAHAP.</li> <li>14. FSTP Phase 1 participants to be pinpointed before the harmonization meeting in November.</li> <li>15. RFD to be invited for Capability Training that would cater the need of the JOs.</li> <li>16. To include MOET application as part of the Rice Training topics.</li> <li>17. Interventions to prioritize the 4th-6th class municipalities. FITS Establishment in the RCEF areas to consider the 5th class municipalities.</li> <li>18. To include the statistics of income before and after under RCEF Program.</li> <li>19. Earlier recruitment of scholars and validation under OA Program.</li> <li>20. Refresher courses should have something new to offer to the AEWs, not just a repetition.</li> <li>21. BPs to place in their WFPs those success story target so ISS can strategize how they can accomplish such. Focal persons to give the list of those to be documented.</li> <li>22. To subscribe one more Zoom Account to ensure connectivity of online activities.</li> <li>23. Program document to be included as it highlights ATI-RTC-CAR's intervention.</li> <li>24. Consider quality notebook and pen that can be used for the whole year for MUST activities.</li> <li>25. For GAD plan and Budget to be submitted on institution level, not per RTC. To be brought out by CD during the CDs meeting.</li> <li>26. To consider water plans especially for in-center activities. Also, Solar lights to reduce energy consumption.</li> <li>27. Set one-day in-center budget execution workshop (August 5 if guideline is already given). CAR will be the host (National).</li> </ol>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Performance Review and Planning Workshop	<p><b>2023 ATI RCEF Mid-Year Performance Review and 2024 Planning Workshop</b></p> <p>The 2023 Agricultural Training Institute- Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Mid-Year Performance Review and 2024 planning workshop focused on identifying the clients and areas that were already reached by ATI-RCEF extension services through mapping and formulated strategies that will further extend support to the marginalized sector of the industry.</p> <p>The general objective of the activity was to assess the performance of the ATI-RTCs in delivering the RCEF Extension support interventions and formulate strategies that will further extend the support to the marginalized sector of the rice industry. There was a presentation of the RCEF-RESP accomplishments from 2019-2023 as of July 2023 discussion of RCEF Quick Survey and logical framework and convergence plan. RCEF quick survey showed that the short run impacts are low, and the number of farmers reached was deemed medium due to frequent repetition in training to specific subgroup of farmers instead of increasing the over-all number of farmers trained. It exhibited that farmers who participated in recent trainings had higher yields and lower input use, thus resulting in higher net returns and a lower costs of production per kilogram.</p> <p>The logical framework and convergence plan enabled the participants craft an idea on how to prepare their FY 2024 WFP. The presentation showed the remaining activities that are not yet conducted and is to be reconsidered for the planning of each RTC's for implementation for the year 2024.</p> <p>Notably, the Cordillera region successfully met its targets and accomplished its planned programs and activities for the first semester. In the afternoon, each RTCs had a planning workshop on 2024 plans and programs based on logical framework.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Internal Assessment	<p><b>ISO INTERNAL QUALITY AUDIT (IQA) FOR SEM2</b></p> <p>Generally, this 2-day activity aimed to assess the conformity of established ATI QMS against the requirements of ISO 9001:2015. Specifically, it sought to assess the capability of the QMS in ensuring that ATI-RTC-CAR meets applicable statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements, verify implementation and evaluation of the effectiveness of intended correction and corrective actions to IQA and TUV-SUD Audit Findings, and evaluate the effectiveness of the QMS in ensuring that ATI-RTC-CAR is continually meeting the set objectives and customer requirements.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">AUDITOR</th> <th rowspan="2">Process Owner</th> <th colspan="3">FINDINGS</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Type NC/OFI</th> <th>Clause No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>V. Siloy</td> <td>IS/DOC</td> <td>Obsolete procedure was presented during the audit. CIP: Training Procedure DP-COMD-03 Rev. 03 ED: 12/19/2018</td> <td>NC</td> <td>7.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V. Siloy</td> <td>IS</td> <td>No confirmation matrix for LCE Meeting that will justify its postponement</td> <td>NC</td> <td>7.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Soriano</td> <td>PAS</td> <td>There is inconsistency in the registered names of LSAs in ATI and DTI. The naming of Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) should be in alignment with the qualified names registered at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Therefore, process owner may consider that list of requirements may include DTI registration for qualified LSAs.</td> <td>OFI with action item</td> <td>8.2.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Soriano</td> <td>PAS</td> <td>The evaluation of certified LSA and the identification of any issues and concerns are currently conducted through the semestral monitoring forms. It is recommended that a comprehensive review and assessment process for LSAs be implemented to proactively address emerging issues and concerns more effectively.</td> <td>OFI</td> <td>9.1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Soriano</td> <td>Finance</td> <td>Vouchers with lacking documents were processed. CIP: 1. Reimbursement of expenses during the FYFIPT send-off ceremony at ATI-CD on August 8, 2023 (lacking trip ticket) 2. Processing of payment of supplies/materials (carrier) for ATI-CAR commuter van (lacking inspection report; Box C of the DV unsigned)</td> <td>NC</td> <td>8.2.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. Lada-an</td> <td>Cashier</td> <td>Released check without inspection report and undelivered product. CIP: Check No. 002137-9035-83 to Richard Calocdan for the Payment of supplies/materials (carrier) for ATI-CAR commuter van (lacking inspection report; Box C of the DV unsigned)</td> <td>NC</td> <td>6.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AUDITOR	Process Owner	FINDINGS			Description	Type NC/OFI	Clause No.	V. Siloy	IS/DOC	Obsolete procedure was presented during the audit. CIP: Training Procedure DP-COMD-03 Rev. 03 ED: 12/19/2018	NC	7.5	V. Siloy	IS	No confirmation matrix for LCE Meeting that will justify its postponement	NC	7.5	R. Soriano	PAS	There is inconsistency in the registered names of LSAs in ATI and DTI. The naming of Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) should be in alignment with the qualified names registered at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Therefore, process owner may consider that list of requirements may include DTI registration for qualified LSAs.	OFI with action item	8.2.2	R. Soriano	PAS	The evaluation of certified LSA and the identification of any issues and concerns are currently conducted through the semestral monitoring forms. It is recommended that a comprehensive review and assessment process for LSAs be implemented to proactively address emerging issues and concerns more effectively.	OFI	9.1.3	R. Soriano	Finance	Vouchers with lacking documents were processed. CIP: 1. Reimbursement of expenses during the FYFIPT send-off ceremony at ATI-CD on August 8, 2023 (lacking trip ticket) 2. Processing of payment of supplies/materials (carrier) for ATI-CAR commuter van (lacking inspection report; Box C of the DV unsigned)	NC	8.2.2	M. Lada-an	Cashier	Released check without inspection report and undelivered product. CIP: Check No. 002137-9035-83 to Richard Calocdan for the Payment of supplies/materials (carrier) for ATI-CAR commuter van (lacking inspection report; Box C of the DV unsigned)	NC	6.2
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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Internal Assessment			<b>FINDINGS</b>		
		M. Ladu-an	Cashier	Upon review of the QO, the process owner was not able to achieve the target QO. CIP: Target unsubmitted voucher by June is 10; however, as of June, there were 33 unsubmitted vouchers.	NC	4.4
		M. Ladu-an/ V. Siloy	CCMS, IS	Some RFAs issued were not thoroughly answered. Deeper analysis is necessary in the determination of the root cause, correction, and corrective action in RFAs issued.	OFI	8.7; 10.2
		M. Ladu-an	CCMS	Use of unregistered forms CIP: Training Needs Survey (TNS)	OFI	7.5.2
		R. Sumedca	PMEU	Issued RFAs were not collected five days after issuance.	OFI	



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Internal Assessment	<p><b>ATI-CAR 14TH MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR SEM2</b></p> <p>As the lead in capacity-building, serving as the knowledge bank of different AF information and catalyst of extension support the Agricultural Training Institute – Cordillera Administrative Region (ATI-CAR) continues its support to build and strengthen the capacities of the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), Farmers Cooperative and Associations (FCAs), and young agripreneurs; be the knowledge bank of the different AF information; be a catalyst of extension support; and vigorously undertake outcome and impact evaluation studies to determine the intermediate and long term results of the activities on the lives of the clients.</p> <p>Assessment is a continuous quality improvement and review process. ATI continuously implements extension services as well as assesses and keeps track of what has been happening after the different programs, projects and activities had been implemented. The need to find out whether the results of the Institute's public spending are focused on achieving its deliverables and outputs is important. Building on these tasks requires a system that will provide a continuous flow of information, feedback and insights into the performance of ATI which can help guide management towards achieving its desired results.</p> <p>The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification of the ATI has been upheld since 2016. With the help of management and personnel, who worked diligently and as a team, this was made possible. To continually maintain this status, operating units such as Regional Training Center's (RTCs) need to continuously conduct Management Review. This will enable management and different process owners to provide input on areas that require prompt dissemination, careful evaluation, and identification of potential areas for improvement.</p> <p>Along with the Management Review, the Center's performance was reviewed along the five thematic areas. The physical and financial performance by commodity was presented for every staff to appreciate and visualize his/her contribution to the overall accomplishment of the Center. In addition, there was a presentation of electricity, fuel, and water consumption of the Center. This is to track the Center's compliance to Republic Act No. 11285, an act institutionalizing Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Enhancing the Efficient Use of Energy, and Granting Incentives to Energy Efficiency and Conservation Projects, otherwise known as Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act.</p> <p>The review was conducted on September 28-29, 2023 attended by 43 ATI-RTC-CAR staff.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Performance Assessment	<p><b>3RD QUARTER PAFEC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS</b></p> <p>At the end of the activity, this one-day activity conducted on September 29, 2023, aimed that the participants will be able to provide updates on their physical and financial accomplishments and identify issues and concerns along the implementation of their strategic agri-fishery interventions under their Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP). Specifically, the participants will be able to: submit reports or updates on the implementation of PAFES; identify issues/concerns in the implementation of their identified/proposed interventions under their CPAFEP, and; identify ways forward in the implementation of their CPAFEP.</p> <p>The Provincial Management Group (PMG) of every province in the Cordillera participated in the third Quarter PAFEC Assessment, which was done online. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR-CAR), the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI-RTC-CAR), and the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Office (DA-RFO-CAR) participated in and assisted the activity.</p> <p>Activities undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>presentation of physical and financial accomplishment</b> - The majority of the targeted trainings, according to the provinces, were postponed or never carried out because of the typhoon season that occurred from July to September and because LGU and DA operations overlapped. It was also observed that the six provinces' financial achievements and disbursements are not keeping up with their obligations. This is because resource person honorariums were mostly paid, but meals for the training sessions were still unpaid. The presenters did, however, note that the training expense liquidations are still going on throughout the provinces. Furthermore, the provinces mentioned in their presentations that the interventions would be decided upon depending on the remaining savings, and that the savings would be ascertained following the training.</li><li>✓ <b>Open forum</b> - There were various concerns brought forward during the open forum. This has to do with how savings were used once the activity treatments were finished. The Mountain Province's Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDO) further revealed that their accounting office claims they are still completing their training, therefore they are unable to determine the savings at this time.</li></ul> <p>Agreements - The RPMO will meet to discuss guidelines on the use of savings on the fund allocation to help the provinces.</p> <p>Attended by 31 participants.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS (Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Congress/ Convention	<p>PeLS International Convention on e-Learning, 2023</p> <p>The activity is a regular capability-building activity sponsored by the Philippine e-Learning Society, to which the ATI family has membership as support to the e-Extension Program. It is an avenue where research on e-learning is being shared (mostly SUCs). The theme for this year is "Innovative, Collaborative and Engaging Efforts of Educational Institutions about Leveling the Playing Field, Mainstreaming Online Education, Creating Algorithm Fairness, Embracing Diversity and Propagating Inclusion and Equity in Today's eLearning Ecosystem". The three-day activity was attended by Mr. Maximino Aramin, Jr. and Mr. Adrian Chris Velasco of ATI-RTC-CAR on September 7-9, 2023, at Batac, Ilocos Norte.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Workshop	<p>STANDARDIZATION OF PRIORITY COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORKERS</p> <p>ATI-CD issued Special Order No. 203 Series of 2023, Creating the Technical Working Group to Standardize Priority Training Programs for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW). Hence, a workshop was conducted through Memo M2023-08-832 for all members of the TWG to standardize priority training programs for Agricultural and finalize the Competency-Based Curriculum for AEWs.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Finalization of the training curriculum based on the comments of the management</li><li>- Finalization of standard training designs</li><li>- Branding of Training Courses</li><li>- Guidelines for 2024 roll out</li></ul> <p>Attended by Ms. Jam Balingan, CDMS Head, conducted on August 29 to September 2023 at Diliman, Quezon City.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Workshop	<p>SCALING OF RICE TECHNOLOGIES IN 2024 WORKSHOP</p> <p>On September 12-14, 2023, Ms. Resley Ann Samedca, ATI-RTC-CAR Rice Focal, headed to Subic, Zambales to attend the three-day workshop commenced by ATI Central Luzon with DA-National Rice Program. The workshop aims to present and discuss available technologies on modern rice farming across value chains that are readily available for adoption at the cluster level, showcase the technologies through a project visit, and conduct a workshop on how to scale these technologies in the identified rice-producing provinces in 2024. The workshop mainly focused on the four rice technologies namely: PalaYamanan, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Heirloom Rice, and Agroecology-based Rice Farming.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Resource Person/Facilitator	<p>RP'ship: Training on Package of Technology (POT) on Heirloom Rice Production on Agricultural Fisheries and Extension Development for PMG and AEWs of Kalina</p> <p>The Kalina Province Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (KPAFES) staff designed and conducted an activity entitled Training on Package of Technology (POT) on Heirloom Rice Production on Agricultural Fisheries and Extension Development for PMG and AEWs in the Province of Kalina on September 11-15, 2023, at Tabuk City, Kalina. It aims to capacitate most OAS/OPAg staff on Heirloom Rice and Organic Agriculture at the provincial level before cascading the training to the municipal level. Organic rice/heirloom rice is one of the identified prime commodities in the province and is a profitable venture for the farmers because it is exported to other countries. The activity is one of the training programs/proposed by PAFES-Kalina to intensify the production of heirloom rice to sustainably supply the needs of the consuming public locally and internationally. Mr. Edwin Dickson, the OA Focal Person, served as an RP during the training.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Workshop	<p><b>DETAILS MATTER: FY 2024 LUZON CLUSTER PLANNING AND BUDGET EXECUTION WORKSHOP FOR LUZON CLUSTER</b></p> <p>On September 11-14, 2023, the Training Center Superintendent II together with the Planning Officers, Budget Officers (ATI-CAR, I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, ITCPH, and V), ATI-Central Office Directorate and Division Chiefs attended the Planning and Budget Execution Workshop at Hacienda Angellita, San Rafael, Bulacan. This four-day activity aimed to examine the proposed FY 2024 plans and budget of the ATI Operating Units (OUs) to ensure that plans are innovative, relevant, and responsive and that funds are appropriated cost-effectively.</p> <p>Engr. Remelyn P. Recoter, MNSA, CESO III formally opened the program with her message highlighting the 2024 budget proposals and the Budget Expenditure Program. Before the presentation and critiquing of FY 2024 plans and budget by the respective TCDs and representative, a presentation of the FY 2024 Budget of ATI based on the National Expenditure Program (NEP) and the Allowable expenses for FY 2024 based on the approved object of expenditures was undertaken: The Rice Program to consider interventions for the Heirloom Rice Industry by supporting further its production and marketing. For FSTP to assess if the target 4th-6th class municipalities have been reached under the Corn and Cassava Program. For the Livestock Program to allot a budget for feed-related training since the Corn Fund is limited. For the RCEF-RES Program align the topics for the Refresher Course with the topics that were discussed during the Refresher Course for the RSTC graduates. For the Regular Program to revisit targets on FITS Center establishment or enhancement as there are targets under the Rice Program. And to transfer the Capacity-building activities on EPAHP under the Regular Fund to the NUPA Program.</p> <p>Moreover, aside from conducting training, ATI can do "Mentoring and Coaching" under training-related concerns. For the LSA and PAF-ESPs to strengthen partnerships with other NGAs such as DTI and DOT to help LSAs join local and international trade where they can promote their products. In the conduct of e-learning briefings strategize by partnering with schools/universities or embed this as part of the training activities for AEWs and other clients under Information Services. Under Scholarship, the thesis and dissertation of the scholars are not necessarily related to rice but focused on the researchable areas/agenda by ATI. To anchor interventions on farm families based on the Philippine Action Plan for Farm Family (PAP4FF). To strengthen relationships with the counterparts at the regional level (RFDs, other DA agencies, and others) under PPME concerns. For the Administrative and Finance to limit the use of operating/admin costs that were incorporated in the training programs and use a more appropriate object. To utilize the use of online platforms in implementing L&amp;D activities for ATI staff under Human Resources. Lastly, to integrate minor activities such as tree planting and clean and green activities into major activities.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Magsasaka Siyentista	<p>Throughout the month various assessment and documentation of the Magsasaka Siyentista nominee were undertaken</p> <p><b>MS ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>📍 <b>OMAg-FITS Center Aginaldo (September 1, 2023)</b></p> <p>LSA owner Mr. Ike Milad, a Magsasaka nominee of OMAg-FITS Aginaldo, Ifugao, was assessed based on the ISO-referred form of DA-ATI. Based on the findings, Mr. Milad is ready for endorsement to DA-ATI ISD for a certificate of recognition as MS.</p> <p>📍 <b>FITSC-OMAg, Bakun, Benguet (September 19, 2023)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mr. Elias Atonen<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- He is nominated for his shiitake mushroom production grown in oak tree branches. Accordingly, the oak tree logs can be used for mushroom production for five years. He markets his product within or near the municipality, BIGS-(BSU), and by order.</li></ul></li><li>▪ Mr. Leo Ayasao (LCA Farm)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- He is nominated as MS on organic farming. His farming practices are the application of concoctions, mukosako, compost fertilizer (grasses, sunflower, composted chicken dung), ooco dust, and follows the OFH protocols.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>📍 <b>FITSC-OMAg, Bauko, Mt. Province (September 20, 2023)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mr. Rockson Pongdad (Planiliners Farm)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MS nominee on rabbit production. Has a potential for agri-tourism- provided to make a pathway plan of the area not to comprise the biosecurity of the animal production activities.</li></ul></li></ul>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Orientation	<p><b>Orientation of Kalinga Young Farmers Association</b></p> <p>Before starting the project and partnership with KYFA, an orientation was conducted for the members and officers. It was attended by 10 officers and members from OPAS and OCAS. And when asked if they were interested in being ATI partners, they all said yes. Accordingly, the garden will be their hands-on site where they can directly apply the learnings for school.</p>





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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p><b>Strengthening of Site Working Groups of CAR</b></p> <p>The Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Community Program started in 2017 as RiceBIS 1.0 and ended in 2022. The project aims to address low productivity and food insecurity in rural farming areas by developing rice and rice-based enterprises. The program promotes productivity through improved technology adoption and agripreneurship, focusing on intensifying rice technology deployment, spurring agroenterprise potential, and diversifying income sources. The program aims to transform rice-based farming communities into inclusive, competitive, and sustainable agroenterprise community models with an increased income of 25%. The program was designed as a two-phase program, with a pilot phase covering eight rice-producing provinces and 56 clusters covering 967 smallholder farmers. Phase 2 began in 2020, with capacity building, technology demonstration, agroenterprise development, and linkage building implemented in 15 municipalities. The RiceBIS has been elevated to RiceBIS 2.0 with the aim of maximizing gains from production, establishing broader market linkages, promoting farming as a business, and fostering a market-oriented approach to rice-based farming. The goal is to ensure that at least 50% of income is achieved by 2028. The project is focused on three major innovations: process innovation, product innovation, and marketing innovation. This year, the project aims to have all the rice farmers under the RiceBIS communities PhilGAP certified so they can sell their products in the lucrative market</p> <p><b>AGREEMENTS:</b></p> <p>The rice clusters of Alfonso Lista will present their community development plan on October 26, 2023, at J&amp;E Farm in San Quintin, Alfonso Lista, in order to determine which agency will provide assistance. ATI-RTC-CAR will be funding one Batch of GAP training as their preparation for their certification. It will take place from March 4-8, 2024 with 50 participants with the aim of GAP certifying all 50 farmers by the end of 2024.</p> <p>This was attended by Ms. Resley Ann Sumedca &amp; Mr. Charlie Sagudan on September 21, 2023 at PhilRice, Malasin, San Mateo, Isabela.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p><b>F2C2 Meeting – Presentation of Cluster Development Plans</b></p> <p>As F2C2 Focal, Mr. Aromin attended the activity to represent the Center on September 20, 2023, at DA-RFO-CAR, Guisad, Baguio City. During the meeting, the following topics were discussed: Review of the existing clusters registered per province, Status of CDP submissions, and Criteria for selecting cluster beneficiaries – area based on memo, maturity level in engaging business. Challenges in cluster registration were also identified such as there were no list of membership, some clusters are not yet CSOs, some FCAs don't like to join because of their bad experiences in implementing government programs such as the flint corn project, some are non-compliant, and attendance during meeting is never complete. Project Proposal Preparation, Financial Literacy &amp; Credit Management, and Leadership are some of the following trainings identified.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p>Preparatory Meeting for SOA-SRA Graduation for 2023 September 14, 2023, Bangue, Abra</p> <p>Mr. Maximino Aromin, Jr., SOA-SRA Project Officer, met with the 13 participating municipalities of Abra to plan for the graduation activity of the SOA-SRA for 2023, since the last airing was on September 11, 2023. The meeting emphasized that ATI will no longer reimburse the fare of pax from their municipality. Thus, a need to get participants' willingness to attend the graduation even without transportation support will be the basis for whether to fuse clusters or not based on the attendance to be determined on October 5, 2023.</p> <p>The remaining five (5) participating municipalities that were not able to attend the meeting were met by Mr. Aromin during the LeMIMCAP convention and agreed that they would honor all the agreements made during the meeting.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field validation and Judging	<p>Regional Search for the Modelong Gulayan sa Barangay of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries for CY 2023 of the DSWD-CAR</p> <p>From September 27-29, 2023, Mr. Romualdo Bantag of ATI-RTC-CAR together with Mr. Albert Lab-ayan from DA-RFO CAR and Ms. Mary Joyce Butangen from DSWD-CAR served as a judge on Regional Search for the Modelong Gulayan sa Barangay of the 4Ps beneficiaries. Slant Movers Communal Garden of Bauko, ML Province, Tukukan Proper and Impugong Parent Group of Tinoc, Ilugao, and 4Ps Beneficiaries Gulayan sa Barangay of Tuba, Benguet submitted their entries. All of them practiced the organic farming system. After validation, the beneficiaries received feedback and remarks from the judges for the enhancement of their communal garden.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR	<p>Seminar on the Development of Farmers' Cooperatives for the Philippines</p> <p>The Seminar on the Development of Farmers' Cooperative for the Philippines was held from July 12 to August 1, 2023, and was participated by Ms. Vicky May Guinayen, Com Focal Person from ATI-RTC-CAR. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and was organized by the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences. It was held in Wuxi City, China, and field visit areas were in Xinghua City, Jianhu City, Nanning City, Dexi City, and Yulin City.</p> <p>The Seminar's objective was to enable participants to get a deep understanding of the successful stories and achievements in the development of farmers' cooperatives in China, veritably know about the contributions of farmers' cooperatives to boosting the economy, alleviating food security and poverty in rural areas, providing employment opportunity, and exchange on potential cooperation areas between China and the Philippines.</p> <p>A total of 37 participants from the Philippines participated in the activity. Thirteen (13) participants came from the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries, 12 participants came from the Agricultural Training Institute and its Learning Sites for Agriculture, 12 were from the F2C2 Program of the Department of Agriculture, and one (1) participant was from the City Government of Davao.</p> <p>National Training of Trainers on Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) Nutrient Expert for Cassava Production</p> <p>The National Training was conducted to provide the necessary knowledge and skills on the operation of the Nutrient Expert Cassava Philippines (NECPH) to the participants. Twenty (20) participants attended and completed the training, and they are expected to roll out the training in their respective regions. Two (2) participants from ATI-CAR, and two (2) from the Regional Field Office represented CAR in the said training. Since ATI has a target of 1 conduct of this training in the Region, it was agreed that it will be on October 25-27, 2023. The training was completed by Ms. Vicky May Guinayen, Com Focal Person from August 28 to September 1, 2023, at Hacienda Gracia, Lubao, Pampanga.</p>



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Date: October 9, 2023