



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JULY | 2023

Center/Division: RTC-CAR

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>ENGENDERING EXTENSION IN THE LGUS: COURSE 1: GENDER SENSITIVITY IN EXTENSION IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) is an initial effort to show how gender shapes the roles of women and men in society, including their role in development, and how it affects relations between them. Raising knowledge on gender sensitivity will provide an avenue for the change of structure of gender differentiation. In the context of development, all these require knowledge and appreciation of gender approaches or tools. As a practical tool, GST is important for analyzing gender differentiation and provides adequate knowledge regarding major factors that influence and are responsible for how gender is defined to an individual, an entity, and even to a community.</p> <p>The Agricultural Extension Workers in the LGUs are the front liners in providing extension in their localities and are also expected to mainstream gender and development in this context. However, there is an increasing request for capability building in including GAD in their programs as they have limited knowledge and skills in doing such. As such, the Center shall be implementing a Training Program on Engendering Extension in the LGUs composed of the following courses to integrate GAD in their programs: Course 1. Gender Sensitivity Training; Course 2. Gender Analysis Tools; and Course 3. GAD Planning and Budgeting. This Course 1 focused on understanding both women's and men's roles, needs, interests, priorities, responsibilities within the community, and their relations to each other. Women and men equally play vital roles in society and development affects both men and women differently. Women and men will have different impacts on programs and projects. Hence, both must be involved in identifying problems, needs, constraints, and solutions. All these things need to be advocated and shared with extension implementers for a more gender-sensitive implementation of extension services in the Cordillera region. The participants were able to learn basic information regarding Gender and Development. The importance of Legal mandates which are useful in GAD planning and Budgeting. Also, the roles of AEWs in Gender Mainstreaming. And that a transformed leader focuses on relationship-building, exhibits humility, empowers others, stays authentic, presents themselves as constant and consistent, and is a role model to their subordinates. This training was participated by 21 participants on July 25-27, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impression:</p> <p><i>"First of all, thank you ATI family, to Ma'am Jam and to the training management staff who are very approachable. This training is helpful to me personally and professionally because I realize that my knowledge of GAD is not enough. The topics on transformational leadership and principles of gender and development are important that we, public servants must have and possess so that we can serve our clients and community better. Although I am not a GAD Focal in our office, the learnings here is important and I will surely apply it. Once again thank you ATI, see you in the next course."</i> Reymi Abaco, Administrative Aide IV, Mayoyao, Ifugao</p> <p><i>"Thanks to this training it broadened my knowledge in Gender and Development. Before, I only see GAD as the classification of different genders such as LGBTQ+. Now, I learned that there are a lot of concepts to learn from about GAD. I also learned that we could apply this learning not only in the workplace but also in our home and our daily activities where we interact with different people. As a newly employed in the Local Government Unit of Itogon, I encountered and made a research proposal where GAD principle can be incorporated so I am looking forward to the upcoming courses. Because I am interested in how to incorporate GAD into research proposals."</i> Merely Dalisay, Agriculturist I, Itogon, Benguet</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON RECALIBRATION & ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF RBO AND 4H FOCAL PERSONS (BATCH 2)</p> <p>Rural Based Organizations (RBO) like 4H Clubs, Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs), Pambansang Manalon, Magbabaul, Mag-uuma, Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP), Magsasaka Syentista (MS), Indigenous People (IPs) are recognized as functional and productive partners of the Department of Agriculture in planning, implementing and evaluating programs and projects that will help alleviate rural poverty, increase farmers income, generate jobs, and improve quality of life in the rural areas. Through AO No. 09, series of 2002, they are encouraged to be revitalized and strengthened so that they can become effective and efficient partners of the Department of Agriculture. As embodied in the Local Government Code, the organization and management of these organized groups are lodged in the Local Government Units. These organizations have been organized by the coordinators at the barangay level and federated at the municipal and provincial levels led by the LGU RBO Coordinators and at the regional level by the regional RBO coordinators of DA-RFO and DA-ATI-CAR. The main goal is to see the continuous development and maintenance of vibrant RBO organizations in the region. These can effectively be achieved if the coordinators are continuously performing their functions of organizing and maintaining these RBOs.</p> <p>It was agreed during the training that the participants will submit a master list of the organizations under RBO and a project-based proposal. The training was conducted on July 19-21, 2023, at the ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad attended by 27 participants.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"My impression about the training is that we have learned what we want to learn as I was able to grasp the learnings that our resource speakers have shared. All of us participated and we can help each other to make the training successful. Thank you for all the learnings and this is also good for the organizations that we will be helping."</i> Cris M. Ogaccan, Sablan Benguet</p> <p><i>"First and foremost, I want to thank the ATI for this training. To the ATI, may you not be tired of inviting us as we are also not tired of joining the training. Our resource speakers are knowledgeable, especially Sir Edmund. His way of presenting and lecturing is very fun which makes it easy for learnings to be absorbed. The environment is light. All is good. Thank you very much."</i> Harold-Jhon Marcelino, PLGU OPAG Kalinga</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>LOCAL FARMERS EXCHANGE VISIT/BENCHMARKING FOR CERTIFIED LEARNING SITES OF CAR BATCH 2</p> <p>As of March 2023, there were 90 certified Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs I and II) in CAR. These LSAs have various focused commodities, various practices, and technologies that are worth emulating not just for small farmers but also for other LSAs. While every farm is unique and no two farms will follow the same path to success, benchmarking gives a solid measuring point of their operations by analyzing and comparing their practices to be able to keep up with industry trends and meet the demands of the modern market. Benchmarking enables these LSA cooperators to understand where their organization stands in comparison to other LSAs and ultimately encourages them for continuous improvement. The training was conducted at the various ATI-RTC-CAR learning sites on July 11-13, 2023, with 30 participants.</p> <p>The participants learned that every farm has its farm technologies and practices, that every LSAs have a different humble beginning, and take farming problems as challenges and find answers with the help of other farmers. And agreed to organize a group for all the LSAs in CAR and a place for all our farm products.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I want to thank ATI-CAR for implementing this activity because I had the opportunity to meet my fellow LSA proprietors. I am overwhelmed because I was enlightened with the weaknesses of my farm, and so I decided to get your numbers, my fellow farm owners, for I know that you will be a great help in the improvement of my farm. I am grateful, and I hope that this will not be our last meeting, rather the start of building our rapport."</i> Henry V. Maquera, Maquera Integrated Farm</p> <p><i>"I am a newly certified LSA and being one is a big blessing. I am so happy to join in this activity because I have learned a lot. I hope that we won't be dismayed with the accomplishments of the LSAs we have visited, rather let us be motivated to strive harder to be one like them."</i> Esther Humiding, Imbagiw Rice Farm</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON ON-FARM EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS USING STATISTICAL TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (STAR) SOFTWARE</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 20 participants on July 10-14, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"This is very timely for us with implementing the Mandanas ruling because LGUs are encouraged to conduct research. And we lack the knowledge on how to do it, even in the lay outing, we don't even know. This training was very helpful, and we appreciate it very much. We can use this tool to lay out, analyze, and interpret data. We are conducting research together with DA-RFO but do not know how to analyze the gathered data. We can just say that this variety is performing well, but we are behind in data interpretation and analysis. With this training, we hope to analyze our research data."</i> Rony Carlos, OMAg Sablan, Benguet</p> <p><i>"We are very fortunate to be able to attend training such as this. We also conduct training but not like this that focuses on skills development. We can learn more about STAR, we thought it was only used to compute statistical data, but now we learned that it could do more, which can be very helpful in research."</i> Delbert Wayet, DA-RFO-CAR Research Division</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY BUILDING IN SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT WITH PROVISION OF STARTER KITS</p> <p>Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 03, series of 2022, "creation of the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP), a banner program of the Department of Agriculture (DA)", it is a policy direction of the DA to increase food production and lessen the logistics cost to soften the impact of global concerns like food security, climate change and the rising costs of fuel and other inputs. It aims to promote urban and peri-urban agriculture and other emerging agriculture practices through the Plant, Plant, Plant Program.</p> <p>In support to the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program ATI must conduct series of trainings on Urban Agriculture to be able to produce food in limited spaces, provide alternative source of livelihood and aid in solid waste management. Adoption of this emerging approach "organic vegetable farming" plays a vital role in development of agricultural sustainability through avoiding indiscriminate use of synthetic chemicals.</p> <p>Throughout the month, 5 batches were conducted. Details were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="905 756 1597 1023"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Date</th> <th>No. of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 16</td> <td>July 6</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 17</td> <td>July 6</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 18</td> <td>July 14</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 19</td> <td>July 14</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 20</td> <td>July 19</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>125</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Batch	Date	No. of Pax	Batch 16	July 6	25	Batch 17	July 6	25	Batch 18	July 14	25	Batch 19	July 14	25	Batch 20	July 19	25	Total		125
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING ON INBRED RICE SEED PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION FOR POTENTIAL SEED GROWERS (BASIC) BATCH2</p> <p>Prompted by the surging inflation of rice prices, the Republic Act 11203 (Rice Tariffication Law) was enacted, replacing the quantitative restriction of rice imports with general tariffs. Upon the passage of the law, the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) was created to directly support rice farmers and fund innovative undertakings to further strengthen the rice industry. It shall be provided with an annual appropriation of Php 10 billion for the procurement of farm machinery and equipment; rice development, propagation, and promotion; expanded rice credit assistance; and extension services.</p> <p>In particular, RCEF shall be allocated and disbursed to rice producing areas as follows: Section (a)-fifty percent (50%) for Rice Farm Machineries and Equipment; and shall be released to and implemented by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Modernization (PhilMech); Section (b)-thirty percent (30%) for Rice Seed Development, Propagation and Promotion which shall be released to and implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); Section (c)- ten percent (10%) for the Expanded Rice Credit Assistance which shall be made available in the form of credit facility to be managed by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); and Section (d)- ten percent (10%) shall be made available for the extension services provided by PhilMech, PhilRice, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for teaching skills on rice crop production, farm mechanization and knowledge/technology transfer through farm schools nationwide.</p> <p>In the RCEF seed program, the promotion and use of high-quality inbred rice are seen as key interventions in improving our rice farmers' productivity and profitability. As such, in support of these thrusts, ATI-CAR under the RCEF extension component, continues its delivery of training programs to enhance the technical capabilities of potential seed growers and to help ensure the availability of quality rice seeds in CAR. In connection with this, it is greatly hoped that more potential seed growers will be motivated to plant inbred rice to continuously supply high-quality seeds in the region as well as to other regions.</p> <p>The training provided the participants with new learnings about the different testing for seeds like purity test, and the use of different methods for moisture content determination. They were able to learn about the different considerations regarding the storage of seeds in the warehouse which is essential in becoming a seed grower and producer. On July 17-21, 2023, 20 participants attended the training at Tabuk City, Kalinga.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"The training has equipped me with valuable knowledge about effective rice field management, particularly in the context of seed growing, which differs from traditional practices. As a seed grower, I now understand the importance of providing extra care and maintenance to my rice fields. The training also provided insights into the various seed varieties suitable for the Cordillera region. I am eager to apply all the learnings from this activity to enhance the productivity and success of my own rice field."</i> Danilo B. Samuel Sr., Rizal, Kalinga</p> <p><i>"Through this training, we were able to acquire a lot of techniques to excel as proficient seed growers and producers within our municipality. The comprehensive guidelines and policies shared during the training are essential for our success in this endeavor, and we are committed to adhering to them diligently. With that, thank you to the training management team for allowing us to be part of this training."</i> Edward Tumbokon, Luna, Apayao</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>DIGITAL FARMERS PROGRAM: TRAINING ON PACKAGE OF TECHNOLOGIES</p> <p>Launched in June 2019, the DFP aims to equip farmers with knowledge and skills on how to use basic digital tools including social media, climate and weather monitoring applications, and online payment options. It is an approach in helping farmers make better farming decisions, access more market opportunities, and increase their livelihood and income.</p> <p>The DFP 103 will be based on the DFP modules while highlighting rice-based agriculture digital and online applications and tools such as the AgriDOC app, Binhing Palay, Pinoy Rice Knowledge Bank, and others. It also aims to equip farmers with knowledge and skills on how to use basic digital tools including social media, climate and weather monitoring applications, and online payment options. It consists of a ladderized approach in helping farmers make better farming decisions, access more market opportunities, and increase their livelihood and income.</p> <p>Finally, one of the major advocacies of the Department of Agriculture is the farm and fisheries clustering and consolidation (F2C2) program. In CAR, the Alfonso Lista Rice Farmers Cluster, composed of various FCAs in the municipality, is one of the first F2C2 groups. In response to the plans of the said cluster which includes digital agriculture, the ATI-RTC-CAR implemented the DFP POT to the Alfonso Lista Rice Farmers Cluster on July 27-28, attended by 23 participants.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"Thank you for the knowledge you shared. I learned about the Payong PAGASA app so now at least we can be better prepared for weather disturbances."</i> Ms. Maria Mejares, San Quintin, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao</p> <p><i>"I would like to thank our trainers for introducing the applications. From now on we already have options especially in selecting rice varieties through the the Binhing Palay app. Specifically, I can now choose from more varieties that are best suited for the wet and dry seasons."</i> Mr. Elmer B. Vidar, Bangar, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TOT ON DIGITAL AGRICULTURE COURSE (DAC) FOR RCEF AREAS</p> <p>The Digital Agriculture Course (DAC) for RCEF Farm Schools is based on the Digital Farmers Program (DFP) which was earlier implemented through the ATI. The DFP was then adopted in the RCEF as the "Digital Agriculture Course for RCEF (DAC4RCEF)" through ATI Memorandum M22-04-150 dated April 20, 2022. This was the result of the agreements made between the ATI and other member-agencies of the RCEF Technical Working Group. The implementation of the DAC4RCEF is envisioned as one of the complementary short courses to the farm schools' farmer field schools. Consequently, the farm school representatives who will undergo the said course are expected to implement digital literacy trainings to farmers in their respective areas aside from sharing the various digital agriculture applications they learned from the training.</p> <p>With the DFP as its model, the DAC4RCEF will be based on the DFP modules while highlighting rice-based agriculture digital and online applications and tools such as the AgriDOC app, Binhing Palay, Pinoy Rice Knowledge Bank, and others.</p> <p>Generally, this training aimed that cooperators of RCEF Farms Schools should be able to implement and/or adopt the Digital Farmers Program in their respective farm schools either by incorporating it to their regular farmer field school sessions or as a separate advisory and extension service of the farm school. Said training was conducted on July 11-12, 2023 attended by 11 participants.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"At first, I was really uncomfortable with the activities involving smartphone because I am not that confident in operating these gadgets. However, it is good that I am with these people although I only know some of them. Nonetheless I did not hesitate to ask for their assistance because if someone who is not that so techie will go through activities such as these it will indeed be very difficult. All of those hesitations eventually vanished after the lecture. I realized that this is indeed good and the topics are useful for me. It is very timely since we are also starting a business and as a farmer this is also an opportunity for me to share the things I learned because we have to admit that we are really behind in terms of technologies like these. I am also hoping that other farmers will also appreciate these topics when we will share it later so we can move towards digital agriculture." Ms. Gee Jane C. Binuluan, Dumagay Integrated Farm</i></p> <p><i>"I graduated Business Management but I realized in this training that agriculture has more strategies and I actually find it better. It is like when someone is still studying it feels like it is just a game but when it comes to this topic it is indeed good to learn it seriously. I also agree with what was mentioned earlier that age determines learning so it is still good even for a farmer to learn these things." Ms. Juliet R. Kidangen, Kub-ao Farm</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINORS ON GAP PRINCIPLES AND GAP FARM INSPECTION FOR AEWs OF CAR BATCH 2</p> <p>Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Compliance and Certification is an urgent practice that needs to be understood well by the extension providers specifically the agricultural extension workers, co-implementer, community policy makers and other stakeholders and the farmers in view of the implementation of Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO) and Food Safety Act of 2013.</p> <p>Being one of the major producers of highland vegetables, root crops, herbs, spices, and fruits, continues and massive advocacy and information dissemination on the updated GAP principles, GAP Inspection protocols and guidelines is very much important despite series of orientations and trainings being done. There must be continued training and updating of the partner Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), especially the newly appointed HVCD, GAP and Food Safety Focal Persons in the region. Thus, this training was conducted.</p> <p>There were thirty (30) participants who have completed these 4 days training conducted on July 25 – 28, 2023 at ATI-RTC-CAR.</p> <p>Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To invite the 3 pax in the 3rd batch who did not finish the training due to typhoon “Egay” • Re-entry plan of the participants to be monitored • For participants to disseminate to their client farmers the GAP Certification Guidelines, Protocols, Compliances & Inspection Procedures <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>“First of all, I want to thank God for keeping us all safe. Even though there was a strong typhoon, the training still pushed through. I would also like to thank the ATI for taking care of us during our stay here. Also, with the TMT for their dedication and hard work. And lastly, I would like to thank the RPs for the additional knowledge imparted to us.” Ms. Maily A. Valdez; Lgu Paracelis, Mt. Province</i></p> <p><i>“I would like to thank the ATI for the warm welcome, the invitation, accommodation and the venue. I would also like to thank the other participants who participated and filled in the slots that were supposed to be for our province. I also thank our resource speakers for their dedication to teach us additional knowledge. Overall, my impression towards this training was great.” Ms. Rheyne Claire A. Ancheta; LGU Rizal, Kalinga</i></p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>DIGITAL FARMERS PROGRAM 103 VERSION 2</p> <p>The agriculture and fisheries sector constantly faces various challenges in the phase of modernization and industrialization. According to studies, the average age of Filipino farmers is 53 years old and more than 70% or a great majority of the country's farm workers did not finish primary and secondary levels despite public school offerings. In addition, research published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies states a negative annual growth of -1.1% in the population of Filipino farmers from a baseline of estimated 12 million in 2012. This means that there are less Filipinos going into farming and those who remain are advancing in age—unfamiliar with and unable to maximize digital technologies that can help boost their livelihood.</p> <p>As a precursor to the Government's goal on advancing the agriculture industry's adoption to more advanced forms of technology in farming such as the use of precision farming, e-Farming, and other digital solutions, it is deemed necessary to first capacitate the local sector about the basic knowledge on operating emerging technologies. Given this, the Agricultural Training Institute and Smart Communications, Inc. intend to contribute to narrowing down the digital skills gap and aim for an overall digital inclusion on farming through the Digital Farmers Program (DFP). Launched in June 2019, the DFP aims to equip farmers with knowledge and skills on how to use basic digital tools including social media, climate and weather monitoring applications, and online payment options. It is an approach in helping farmers make better farming decisions, access more market opportunities, and increase their livelihood and income.</p> <p>The DFP 103 V2 will be based on the DFP modules while highlighting rice-based agriculture digital and online applications and tools such as the AgriDOC app, Binhing Palay, Pinoy Rice Knowledge Bank, and others. It also aims to equip farmers with knowledge and skills on how to use basic digital tools including social media, climate and weather monitoring applications, and online payment options. It consists of a ladderized approach in helping farmers make better farming decisions, access more market opportunities, and increase their livelihood and income.</p> <p>Finally, one of the major advocacies of the Department of Agriculture is the farm and fisheries clustering and consolidation (F2C2) program. In CAR, the Alfonso Lista Rice Farmers Cluster, composed of various FCAs in the municipality, is one of the first F2C2 groups. In response to the plans of the said cluster which includes digital agriculture, the ATI-RTC-CAR will be implementing the DFP 103 V2 to the Alfonso Lista Rice Farmers Cluster. The participants learned how to run agri apps and develop content for social media marketing. The training was conducted on July 25-26, 2023, at J & E Farm, San Quintin, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao, composed of 28 participants.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"We were encouraged to join because aside from being farmers, we are also working for the barangay LGU. I really appreciated our topic on photography, I learned that there are angles in taking a picture, I learned the purpose of the camera grids, and it is also my first time to use Canva."</i> Marilyn P. Carig</p> <p><i>"Thank you, trainers, for sharing your knowledge and skills in digital agriculture and social media marketing for us farmers, especially the use of social media and Canva in agriculture. This is indeed good because it widened our way of thinking especially in promoting and marketing our products as this is the most common problem among farmers."</i> Jonalyn V. Piñon</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) ON VEGETABLE PRODUCTION EMPLOYING GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR AEWs OF ABRA & APAYAO</p> <p>The High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) is one of the banner programs of the Department of Agriculture created to help address food security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable growth. It helps to promote the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of high-value crops. Strategically, HVCDP helps to increase income, create livelihood opportunities, and contribute to the national agricultural development of the Philippines. The Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) play an important role in the successful implementation of programs and projects of the Department of Agriculture. Training the agricultural extension workers is an integral part of the overall agricultural process, as they are the main agent in reaching out to the farmers scattered around the country. They are the key players in transferring agricultural information and new farming technologies to improve the productivity and sustainability of the farmer-clienteles.</p> <p>Training of Trainers on vegetable production from seed to seed with nursery accreditation is among the identified training extension support to enhance the technical capabilities and decision-making skills of partner stakeholders and the Agricultural Extension Workers from the provinces of Apayao & Abra. Further, the region has a limited number of accredited nurseries as a source of quality planting materials. The training will update their knowledge and skills in sustainable vegetable crop farming, essential in assisting their farmer clients. Thus, this training was conducted to provide updated technical knowledge and skills required for efficient performance as agricultural extension workers in their respective areas of coverage. It was conducted on July 25-28, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU compound, La Trinidad composed of 30 participants.</p> <p>After the training, the participants came into agreement to certify at least 1 GAP Farmer for every municipality and OPAG Abra to cluster municipalities in their province to conduct training for information dissemination on Pesticide and Fertilizer, and lastly a GAP certification for both DA-ROS Luna and Rizal.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"On behalf of ROS-Rizal, I would like to thank ATI-CAR for providing this training. We produce a lot of seedlings in our ROS and this training helped us in all sorts of information. In our place, our farmers have a lot of questions regarding the topics we have learned so I thank the ATI together with the resource speakers for their dedication to teach us."</i> Benedicto Tiggangay, DA-ROS, Luna, Apayao</p> <p><i>"This training has been a big help especially for me because I am under the HVCD department in our place. I have learned a lot, especially in the GAP certification because we have a plan to certify our garden in our place. I would also like to thank the resource speakers for their dedication to teaching us until the last day. Thank you."</i> Mary D. Sabado, DA-ROS, Rizal, Kalinga</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Training	<p>CAPABILITY BUILDING FOR INSPECTORS</p> <p>The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is a globally recognized organic certification system that ensures the organic integrity and quality of agricultural products through the active involvement of stakeholders, including farmers, processors, consumers, and certifiers. In the Philippines context, PGS has played a pivotal role in the organic agriculture sector long before the enactment of the Republic Act (RA) 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (OAA).</p> <p>In 2020, Republic Act No. 11511, or the Act Amending RA 10068, otherwise known as the Organic Agriculture (OA) Act of 2010, was enacted to recognize the PGS as an option for organic certification. Item (g) of Section 14 (Participatory Guarantee System) of the amended OA Act of 2010 states that: "The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), in close coordination with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), shall make available the required training program on organic agriculture standards and processes for PGS groups applying for accreditation." Initially, the ATI and BAFS developed the training of trainers' modules to form and capacitate core PGS groups and assist the PGS group in complying with the applicable Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture and the regulations. This training resulted in the installation of the PGS Manual of Operations and the establishment of the Internal Standards of the PGS group in preparation for their accreditation as an organic certifying body.</p> <p>With the increasing demand for organic produce and products and the rising awareness among farmers about the importance of sustainable agriculture, the number of applications for the accreditation of Core PGS has significantly increased in recent months. Consequently, there is a need for additional technical staff capable of effectively implementing and imparting knowledge regarding the PGS group certification and accreditation process. Therefore, the training-program initiative of the Agricultural Training Institute, in collaboration with BAFS, aims to develop a proficient and skilled regional pool of inspectors and assessors who can assist and support the BAFS in the inspection and accreditation activities for the Core PGS group.</p> <p>The learnings or insights gained by the participants may be shared with the upcoming training on PGS and certification or accreditation-related courses. It also equipped them with the knowledge used for proper interpretation or analysis of the standards to be done before writing or presenting any findings that enables them to come up with appropriate recommendations. This training was completed by 32 participants held on July 3-7, 2023, at Sagada Cave Pension House, Sagada, Mountain Province.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"This training is very relevant to the Regional Filed Offices to help the BAFS team in conducting inspections, especially in their respective regions. I'm thankful that I'm part of this activity because I have learned a lot, especially during the Mock Filed Pre-Inspection. However, there should be more time to discuss other needed supplemental topics needed in pre-assessment."</i> Sylvio Simon Jr., Region I</p> <p><i>"I would like to express my gratitude to ATI-CAR for facilitating this training I'm privileged to be part of it. I have learned how to generate findings, classify, and recommend. For all the learnings and insights gained, I am excited to apply it as an inspector in my area. I hope that batch 2 of this training will be conducted soon."</i> Mark Joseph Esteban, Region III</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION</p> <p>Climate change is a universal concern that needs everybody's immediate attention. Our natural resources are slowly being destructed which is an effect of our careless and inconsiderate behavior resulting from the way of life that we are in right now. It's a global problem that needs the cooperation of everybody. As individuals, we can always find ways to do our part. It doesn't matter whether it's a small or big act, what's important is that we know the problem and we are willing to do our part to help mitigate the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Tree Planting Activity is conducted yearly by the center in support of the government's reforestation initiative and climate change mitigation strategy through the National Greening Program (NGP). This is in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and the Department of Agriculture–Regional Field Office (DA-RFO). The activity is an act of support and recognition of the center for the importance of planting and saving trees. It is also our way of expressing our concern for the environment to lessen the unfavorable effects of climate change. Further, this will also build a stronger relationship and camaraderie between and among ATI-RTC-CAR staff, DA-RFO, and DENR in preserving our environment.</p> <p>For this year's activity, different fruit trees were planted to help contribute to the attainment of the Department of Agriculture's prime responsibility to ensure food availability and security. Also, maintenance and fertilization were done on 400 fruit trees planted last CY 2022. The activity was held on July 7, 2023, at Baguio Animal Breeding and Research Center (BABRC), participated by 34 DA-ATI-RTC-CAR Staff and 8 OJTs from BSU who availed themselves during the conduct.</p>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>TECHNICAL BRIEFING ON BALANCED FERTILIZATION STRATEGY AND GOLDEN RICE</p> <p>Golden Rice is a new type of rice that contains beta carotene, a pigment that the body converts into Vitamin A as needed. This compound is what gives this grain its yellow-orange or golden color, hence its name. It is developed through genetic engineering by the Department of Agriculture–Philippine Rice Research Institute in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. This can provide up to 50 percent of the estimated average requirement (EAR) of vitamin A for young children, the age group most susceptible to VAD in the Philippines. The beta-carotene in Golden Rice, which was made possible by the addition of two new enzymes, is identical to the beta-carotene found in green leafy and yellow-colored vegetables, orange-colored fruit, and even in many vitamin supplements and food ingredients. Like ordinary rice, Golden Rice does not require any special cultivation practices and generally has the same yield and agronomic performance.</p> <p>DA-PhilRice has started working with local partners to identify market- and program-based approaches for bringing Golden Rice first to selected communities with a high prevalence of VAD and other associated micronutrient deficiencies. It is also increasing the volume of available seeds and other remaining activities necessary for moving Golden Rice into farmers' fields. Concerning fertilizers, the Philippines is dependent on the importation of inorganic fertilizers since it does not have enough resources to produce the fertilizer that can supply the country. Due to the increase in fertilizer prices, the Department of Agriculture launched the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) Program, this pushes for the use of combined organic and inorganic inputs and other forms of strategy to attain the maximum potential of farmlands while promoting balanced fertilization in maintaining soil fertility.</p>



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>The said strategy applies the concept of the 4Rs in fertilization: Right Source, Right Placement, Right Amount, and Right Rate to help enhance soil health and productivity, prevent the decline in soil fertility, and improve fertilizer availability and costs. The BFS Program is seen to enhance the agricultural production landscape with improved soil structure, and the judicious use of fertilizers towards a food-secure and resilient Philippine agricultural industry, with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk. With the current issue of the rising prices of inorganic fertilizer in the market, BFS is one of the emerging technologies to address this issue. In this context, the Agricultural Training Institute in partnership with DA-PhilRice conducts technical briefings for the update and information to the public that golden rice is safe and ready for cultivation. Also, the technical briefing will address alternative input-fertilizer through balanced fertilization. The training was conducted on July 18, 2023, at Poblacion, Conner, Apayao, and Balong, Tabuk City, Kalinga with a total of 45 participants.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1179 576 1889 679"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>No. of Pax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batch 3</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch 4</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The participants learned the different benefits of Balanced Fertilization and discussed the Issues and Concerns regarding fertilizers in the Philippines such as: 1. Increasing cost of inorganic fertilizer while addressing the nutrient needs of palay; 2. Soil Health Improvement because the majority of our lowland irrigated and rainfed rice land is moderately low in fertility which is estimated at 83%.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p><i>"I am representing the Farmers Association of Guinaang. I am extending my thanks to ATI-RTC-CAR for the conduct of this activity. This is a big help for us because as an Organic Practitioner, the topics discussed especially on Balanced Fertilization Strategy is an enhancement or additional knowledge on my part. For the Malusog Rice, this program is timely because Vitamin A is already inputted as part of the rice thus, we can be sure that eating ensures Vitamin A supplement is taken in our body." Romeo E. Banco</i></p> <p><i>"This is my first time to taste Malusog Rice and it's true that there is no difference because it tastes just like ordinary rice. There is nothing special about it, however, the Vitamin A that is imbedded in it is the most important. Truly Malusog rice is a gift from above. Thank you also for sharing the Balanced Fertilization Strategy and organic concoctions for indeed this will help ease our problem regarding the high price of fertilizers nowadays." Dionisia Hermoso</i></p>	Batch	No. of Pax	Batch 3	23	Batch 4	22
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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Other AF	<p>ORIENTATION ON THE PRODUCTION STANDARDS (AWA, GAHP) AND CRAFTING OF OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR INSPIRE BENEFICIARIES OF CAR</p> <p>Animal raising or farming should encompass animal welfare, health safety, and comfort of animals including the care of the environment. Animal welfare refers to the quality of life experienced by an animal and how well the animal is coping with his or her current situation and surroundings. As caretakers or raisers, we must ensure all animals are treated humanely, responsibly, and with respect. On the other hand, Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) is a set of principles of good practices and minimum requirements for the commercial/backyard rearing/farming of animals for food use. The purpose of the code is to ensure that the farming practices of the establishment provide greater confidence in consumers' expectations that the final products are safe and fit for human consumption while ensuring health safety and comfort to both the farm workers and the animals, without any degradation to the environment.</p> <p>The INSPIRE project aims to hasten the repopulation program of the Department of Agriculture on swine that was greatly devastated by the ASF. The project recipients are accredited farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs). Now that the farms are to be established, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI-CAR) believes that these government projects should set an example or serve as learning venues for AWA and GAHP-registered farms. In addition, for the smooth implementation of this project, the operations manual is a vital document for each FCA to craft to guide officers and members to perform their functions correctly and efficiently. Hence, this training/activity.</p> <p>It was agreed that beneficiaries or participants will enhance their Operations Manual based on the feedback of resource speakers and submit enhanced OM to DA-RFO-CAR before August 20, 2023, for finalization. The training was conducted on July 18-20, 2023, at ATI-RTC-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad with 21 participants.</p> <p>Impressions:</p> <p>"First, we would like to thank our facilitators for this seminar. Thank you also to our high caliber resource speakers for imparting their knowledge and expertise which will help us, FCAs, in implementing this project so that it will become successful and expand to provide employment in our locality. Thank you very much to the friendly co-participants. I hope to meet you again. Thank you and God bless." Wendel-Haji E. Tolentino, Secretary, Malayugan Rice Granary Farmers Association</p> <p><i>"I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of us, especially the efficient and effective resource speakers. Thank you for teaching us how to make this project successful. For my fellow "INSPIRED" participants, thank you for the fellowship and we really are all inspired. Thank you also to the caterer for the food."</i> Raul C. Biniahan, BOD, Hapao Indigenous Peoples Multi-Purpose Cooperative</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)	CUAMF	Community Urban Agriculture Model Farms (CUAMF) Lagawa Organic Agriculture and Farmers Association (NUPAP)
Expanding Partnerships Along the Value Chain Through Advisory Services (Advise)		<i>No advisory services provided for this month</i>
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2700 knowledge products disseminated ✓ 1 success story published ✓ 3 success stories documented ✓ 35 webpages uploaded with 72,283 individuals reached
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	CAR AOMA CONSULTATIVE MEETING At the request of the LGU AOMA President, a meeting was held on July 4, 2023, with ten participants in total: AOMA Officers, Ms. Cristine Esnara, PAS Head; Mr. Adrian Velasco; Information Officer II; Ms. Ceferina Dagdag, PAS Administrative Assistant; and BSU Interns. The status of the LGU AOMA paperwork for SEC filing, AOMA registration for BIR, the second LGU AOMA Convention in Sagada, Mount Province, the status of the OAMA finances and member lists, the LemCAP activity, and the assistant to the AOMA secretary were among the items on the agenda that were highlighted at the meeting.



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	SWAIB	<p>Groundbreaking of SWAIB facility at Otucan, Norte, Bauko, Mountain Province (July 5-7, 2023)</p> <p>Swine Artificial Insemination sa Barangay (SWAIB) Project is the first AI center to be implemented in the Cordillera Administrative Region. It is funded thru the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program of the Department of Agriculture – National Livestock Program. The INSPIRE Program aims to gradually repopulate and restore the swine industry in the region which was devastated by the African Swine Fever (ASF) by providing good quality semen.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center – Cordillera Administrative Region (ATI-RTC-CAR) in partnership with the Provincial Local Government Unit of Mountain Province conducted the groundbreaking ceremony for the Construction of Swine AI sa Barangay (SWAIB) Project Housing and Facility. The activity was held at the Provincial Nursery, Otucan Norte, Bauko, Mountain Province last July 7, 2023. The total cost of the SWAIB Project Module is Php 4.70 million pesos.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	SWAIB	<p>Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Construction of Swine AI sa Barangay (SWAIB) Project in Otucan Norte, Bauko, Mt. Province</p> <p>Different LGU officials and Department of Agriculture heads and representatives acknowledge the threat posed by the African Swine Fever (ASF) to food security in the region, in which they reiterated their support for the measures undertaken by the Department of Agriculture to mitigate the adverse effect of the ASF and safeguard the swine industry in the country. One of the safeguards is the INSPIRE Program which aims to revive the swine industry thru the establishment of SWAIB Projects, Swine Multiplier, Techno Demo Farms, and Swine Fattening Farms implemented by the different Department of Agriculture Regional Field Offices and Agricultural Training Centers all over the country.</p> <p>On July 5-7, 2023, a Groundbreaking Ceremony was held at Otucan, Norte, Bauko, Mountain Province to formally start the construction of facilities. The facilities (animal housing, laboratory, waste management, biosecurity, and laboratory) will be constructed at the PLGU Mountain Province-owned lot which was also a counterpart of the LGU to the Project as specified in the MOA signed by both PLGU Mountain Province and DA-ATI-RTC-CAR. The Project has a contract duration of 120 calendar days and is to be constructed by TAWID Builders Corporation.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field monitoring and inspection on the status of the implementation of SWAIB Project	<p>FIELD MONITORING AND INSPECTION ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SWAIB PROJECT</p> <p>Field Monitoring and inspection of the ongoing implementation of the infrastructure component of the INSPIRE Project, 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 under the Provincial Veterinary Office. The SWAIB Project Housing and Facility is being constructed at the Provincial Nursery, Otucan, Norte, Bauko, Mt. Province.</p> <p>On July 20-21, 2023, Engr. Windel Baaten of ATI-RTC-CAR heads to Otucan, Norte, Bauko, Mt. Province to monitor the ongoing construction of the infrastructure project that officially started last July 4, 2023. The monitoring and inspection were conducted in coordination with the Provincial Veterinary Office of Mountain Province and were attended by the Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Rodelio Bagawi and staff Ms. Faith Pec-ao. Also present was Engr. Eduardo Giong-an, the Managing officer of TAWID Builders Corporation. Physical accomplishment as of the date of monitoring and inspection is 5.05%.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Visit/Educational Tour of Interns to ATI-RTC-CAR CUAMF and LSA	<p>VISIT/EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF INTERNS TO ATI-RTC-CAR CUAMF AND LSA</p> <p>The educational tour aims to provide interns with a comprehensive understanding of the extension modalities employed by ATI. By immersing themselves in expert sessions, field visits, hands-on activities, and group discussions, interns gained valuable insights and developed a deep appreciation for the significance of these modalities. This experience equipped them with the skills and knowledge necessary as future extension workers and positively impacted their future professional endeavors.</p> <p>On July 10, 2023, Mr. Ian Jade Watawat, PMEU Admin Assistant together with the interns visited the following LSA and CUAMF: LSA Saymayat Vegetable Farming; CUAMF-Baengan Farmers Association; and LSA Sanagi Agri-Tourism Farm. They actively participated in the seedlings production process and learned the techniques involved in growing healthy and sustainable seedlings. They also had lectures on mushroom production and processing and vermicomposting. LSA cooperators shared experiences, challenges, and success stories, giving interns a real-world perspective on the practical application of extension modalities in agriculture.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Forum	<p>FY 2023 MIDYEAR FINANCE CLUSTER FORUM</p> <p>The program commenced with a message from Director Remelyn Recoter explaining the intention behind the pronouncement of 70%-90% target obligations (70% as of June 30 and 90% as of September 30, 2023), which are: 1) to ease the staff from field works come December 2023. This will then ensure 100% utilization of funds as of December 31, 2023; and 2) reduce accounts payable as of year-end. And the encoding of Budget and Financial Accountability Reports was also conducted.</p> <p>Moreover, the COA Circular 2020-006 dated January 31, 2020, where also discussed highlighting the re: Guidelines and Procedures in the Conduct of Physical Count of Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE), Recognition of PPE Items Found at Station, and Disposition for Non-existing/Missing PPE Items, for the One-Time Cleansing of PPE Account Balances of Government Agencies. On the last day, an open forum where conducted followed by the presentations of the Financial Performance Reports and Disbursement Catch-Up Plan as of June 31, 2023, per RTC, and updates on the Status of Management Comments on the Annual Audit Report for CY 2021 & CY 2022.</p> <p>This two-day activity was held at RDEC Function Hall, ATI Compound, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City on July 10-11, 2023, attended by Ms. Aiza B. Abdul, Accountant I and Ms. Mary Joy E. Walsie, AFU Administrative Assistant for Budget.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Internship Program	<p>2023 Internship Program for the BSA Extension Majors of Benguet State University (BSU)</p> <p>The Agricultural Training Institute – Cordillera Administrative Region (ATI-CAR) was chosen by Benguet State University to be one of the Host Training Establishment (THE) for their internship program because its mandate is closely related to the major field of the OJTs. The ATI is the capacity builder, knowledge bank, and catalyst of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries extension system. It is mandated for the training of all agricultural extension workers and other AF clients; to ensure that training addresses the real needs of the agricultural sector and that research results are then communicated to the farmers through the appropriate training and extension activities.</p> <p>The Student Internship Program started on June 5 and officially ended on July 14, 2023. A total of 10 BSU BSA Major in Extension Education students were deployed at ATI-CAR for their internship. ATI-CAR supports this endeavor as it provides students with an opportunity to complement their formal learning with practical knowledge, skills, and desirable attitudes and to gain hands-on experience. At the end of the internship, the OJTs required to submit Terminal Report and OJT Accomplishment Reports as an output.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Scholarship Program	<p>Scholarship Examination, Interview under the EASY AGRI and Edge Scholarship Program of ATI</p> <p>The EASY Agri Program is a college scholarship grant in support of the children of smallholder farmers and fishers who are inclined to agriculture, providing them equal opportunities to pursue a Degree Program in the field of agriculture and other related courses. The program aims to contribute to the improvement of competitiveness of Philippine agriculture towards achieving food security and alleviation of the socio-economic status of families in the AF sector.</p> <p>The ATI-CAR Scholarship Committee convened to facilitate the written examination and face-to-face interview on July 12-14, 2023, undertaken by the qualified applicants under the EASY Agri Batch 3. There were 44 qualified applicants for this scholarship, however only 35 appeared during the written examination and interview. The Scholarship Committee decided on the following criteria: 30% GPA/GWA; 25% Written Examination; 20% Interpersonal Skills; and 25% Need for the scholarship and willingness to pursue agriculture-related courses.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p>Province-led Agriculture and Fishery Extension System (PAFES) Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) Meeting and Regional Launching of PAFES in Luna, Apayao (July 13-15, 2023, Luna, Apayao)</p> <p>Mr. Maximino R. Aromin Jr., ATI-RTC-CAR ISS Head, presided over the meeting and reported the status of PAFES implementation in CAR as of July 12, 2023.</p> <p>Dr. Viginia A. Tapat from DA- RFO-CAR updated the body on the agreements during the Provincial Management Group (PMG) meeting in Abra. Since the province of Abra has difficulty communicating with the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH), the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) on swine will not be conducted but the province will be pursuing to conduct the TNA for cattle and livestock. Dr. Tapat shared that the TNA for Cattle will be at ATI-CAR and BABRC. The 1st batch is scheduled for September 11-15, 2023, and the 2nd batch will be on September 25-29, 2023. TNA for livestock will also be conducted in September.</p> <p>A Meeting was conducted with the PAFES PMG secretariat of Apayao and discussed a sample of a re-entry plan and checked the use of ATI forms. The following documents are collected: Monthly Report of Accomplishment (Physical, Financial, and Narrative report); and Accomplished e-copy of TACR and their training outputs (proposals).</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Meeting	<p>Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) Secretariat Meeting</p> <p>On July 28, 2023, ATI-RTC-CAR TCD Charlie C. Sagudan together with Mr. Jomar T. Guerson, ISS Administrative Assistant and representatives from DA-RFO-CAR held a meeting at ATI-RTC-CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p> <p>The meeting was an initiative of the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) secretariat to plan for the smooth implementation of PAFES Abra. During the meeting, Ms. Mae D. Kio-isen of DA-RFO-CAR presented the result of the conducted Training Needs Assessment (TNA) survey in Abra where Training Management and Facilitating Skills served as the working table during the meeting. It was also suggested in the discussion to conduct their training into a ladderized strategy for a better capacitation of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs). With this, Abra will train in strategic planning first.</p> <p>In the meeting, the connection of Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) and Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation Program (F2C2) to PAFES was also discussed. In line with this, Ms. Evelyn Aro-Esquejo asked for the copy of the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP) with municipal breakdown, Provincial & Municipal Devolution Transition Plan (DTP) and Provincial Development Plan in her preparation for the training on Strategic Planning of Abra.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Performance Review	<p>ATI FY 2023 Midyear Performance Review</p> <p>On July 17-21, 2023, Ms. Cristine Esnara, PAS Head, together with Mr. Jordan Pily, AFU Head Designated, and Mr. Ian Jade Watawat, PMEU Administrative Assistant attended the ATI FY 2023 Midyear Performance Review at Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.</p> <p>The following were highlighted during the review: The directives from the DA where there should be harmonization of DA programs and projects, and support to mitigate El Niño initiatives. Next is the Strategic Policies pursuing the initiatives aligned with the Institute's 3-Year Development Plan. Followed by a directive from the ATI Director about Operational Policies and highlighted the Administrative Policies of ATI. After the directives, the activity proceeded with presentations showcasing Sem 1 accomplishments from various Divisions, including CDMD, PPD, PAD, AFU-OD, and ITCPH. After these presentations, a Q&A session was held to address any inquiries arising from the delivered reports.</p> <p>The following day is the presentation and vetting of FY 2023 First Semester Physical Accomplishments per Operating Units – ATI Regional Training Centers, a Q&A session was held to address any inquiries arising from the delivered reports. And on the last day, was the determination of Action Points and Ways Forward followed by closing remarks and a visit to LSAs of Region 1.</p>



PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	CBF MAFF Project	<p>Delivery of Agricultural inputs to be used by the 3 FCAs in the 3rd potato production cycle under the CBF MAFF Project</p> <p>The third production cycle is set to start. It will be carried out by the other three members of the three FCAs namely: Ms. Analyn O. Patangan of the Raniag Farmers Association; Ms. Milagros U. Pacito of Manpat-a Farmers' Association; and Ms. Melba Anamong of Blestdam Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc.</p> <p>The plan is to plant potatoes in the last week of July or early in August 2023 so that they will be harvested sooner. Harvesting is expected in October 2023. In support of production, delivery of various farm supplies to these three FCAs was successfully done (July 21, 2023). This includes fertilizers, potato planting materials, pesticides, PPEs, fuel, and motor oil. Moreover, a farm visit was also done to the production areas of the cooperators. Their farms were already cultivated and ready for planting.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	CBF MAFF Project	<p>CBF MAFF Project Site Visit of the ASEAN PMT and meeting with the FCAs; meeting with the Institutional Buyers at Manila</p> <p>This five-day activity was attended by ATI-RTC-CAR TCD Charlie Sagudan and Romualdo Bantag, PAS Administrative Assistant.</p> <p>On the first day, Mr. Charlie Sagudan cordially greets Mr. Yukihiro Nakamura and Mr. Adhy Kartansa, the ASEAN PMT, upon their arrival in the Philippines from Jakarta, Indonesia. A quick meeting was called to go over the visit's schedule and activities. On the second day, the three FCA partners of the project—Ms. Novy Canggal and Ms. Germilyn Galatic of the Municipal Agriculturist Office of Mankayan—met Mr. Romualdo Bantag and the ASEAN PMTs. Mr. Nakamura notified and explained to the FCAs that on July 28, 2023, he needed samples of various vegetables brought to Mitsukoshi and KFI.</p> <p>The FCAs determined and enumerated the potential vegetables they may provide to the mentioned market the following day. The vegetables included broccoli, tomato, pole beans, French beans, eggplant, potato, carrot, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, chayote, lettuce romaine and green ice, and spinach from New Zealand. Because of super typhoon Egay on the third day, Dir. Charlie Sagudan opted out of going to Mankayan. When the winds and rains lessened, Mr. Romualdo of the ASEAN PMT, who was staying at the Mt. Data Hotel that day, notified the FCAs that the meeting had been canceled and that they would only be able to obtain samples of the indicated veggies.</p> <p>On the fourth day, Mr. Basilio was allowed to bring two Styrofoam boxes—one for Mitsukoshi and the other for FKI—filled with vegetable samples. One kilogram of broccoli, trimmed, potatoes, aubergine, garden peas, French beans, pole beans, carrots, chayotes, cucumbers, lettuce romaine, green ice, and tomatoes are included in each box. On July 28, 2023, ASEAN PMT must fly in the evening to meet with Mitsukoshi and KFI. The crew met with Mr. Takato Ishimoto, Head of Mitsukoshi Fresh's Finance and Admin Division, on the last day and gave them the vegetable samples. Regarding how to keep the products fresh, they are worried about the logistics of the vegetables. It's Kennemer Foods International, Inc. that provides them with the vegetables. They and Mr. Mitsukoshi have a consignment agreement.</p> <p>The team visited Kennemer Fresh, KFI's distribution center in San Antonio, Parañaque City, after Mitsukoshi. Numerous employees have been introduced to us. Also, we showed them the samples of vegetables. They claimed that the variety of veggies is another issue that worries them. They'll get back to you with their demands and veggie requirements. Additionally, they stated that the pricing will be locked in for at least a week. They added that they use a tendering mechanism for their vegetable procurement. They wish to go to the FCAs in Mankayan, or the farmers will go to them, as they exhibit interest in working with them as a substitute source of high-quality vegetables.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	CBF MAFF Project	<p>CBF MAFF Project</p> <p>On July 10-13, 2023, Mr. Romualdo Bantag, PAS Admin Assistant conducted the monitoring of the 2nd cycle of potato production under the CBF MAFF Project; the monitoring of Clubroot resistance of broccoli from PMT; and monitoring of the status of FCA's and SIDC.</p> <p>The monitoring indicates that although Mr. Eddie Buyagan's crop is at the tuber development stage, the potato crops of Mr. Basilio Ngaseo Jr. and Ms. Lilian Tabao-ikan are already maturing. The crop of Mr. Ngaseo has been planted for 88 days, whereas the crops of Ms. Tabao-ikan and Mr. Buyagan are planted for 84 and 70 days, respectively. Mr. Ngaseo will harvest first because his crop is currently 88 days from planting. The harvesting is planned for the final week of July 2023 so that the CBF-MAFF Project Management Team may witness it.</p> <p>The Avenger and Legacy broccoli kinds that Mr. Chester Ngaseo planted were afflicted with Clubroot, according to the broccoli varieties that the PMT provided to the FCAs. While Ms. Haynalyn O-oc planted the Marathon variety, she too had an early Clubroot infestation when the seedlings were still young. A status report on Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative's relationship with the FCAs. They don't communicate with Ms. Sheryl Palista, who is the cluster's marketing officer. In addition, the areas designated for potato planting in the third cycle of potato production are also observed. the farms of Melba Anamong of the Blestdam Farmers Association, Ms. Milagros Pacito of the Manpat-a Farmers Association, and Ms. Analyn O-oc of the Raniag Farmers Association. The purpose of the fields is to prepare the ground for planting in August.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	FYFIPT Scholarship	<p>Pre-Departure Orientation Course and Sending Off of FYFIPT Batch 3 Scholars to ATICO</p> <p>The Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT) is a partnership between the DA-ATI, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO), and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) which aims to develop deserving young Filipino Farmers to become farmer leaders and empowered agricultural entrepreneurs. A total of four (4) young farmers were endorsed to the Central Office upon passing and completing PDOC which is a requirement of the program. They have undergone training in different courses on different learning sites. The detailed exposition of the trainings conducted are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 CLEMENCIA LSA FARM (June 22-24, 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training on Farm Mechanization 📍 ATI-CAR URBAN FARM (June 27-30, 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training on Urban Gardening on Vegetables, Vermicomposting, Poultry Production and Rabbit Production 📍 SANAGI LSA FARM (July 3-7, 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training on Mushroom Production 📍 ANAEM LSA FARM (July 10, 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Briefing and Orientation on Urban Gardening, Poultry and Tilapia Production



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	FYFIPT Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 MADDIES LSA FARM (July 10, 2023) ➤ Briefing and Orientation on Hydroponics & Aquaponics 📍 COSMIC LSA FARM (July 11-13, 2023) ➤ Training on Organic Farming, Training on Organic Farming 📍 ANDY COLTE LSA FARM (July 17, 2023) ➤ Briefing and Orientation on Cut flower Production (Chrysanthemums) 📍 BAGUIO DAIRY FARM (July 18-19, 2023) ➤ Training on Cattle Production (Hands-on on Milking, Feeding & Collecting of food for the Cattle) <p>The participants were given a brief overview of the farm rules and what they are about to learn on the farms. The young farmers were given intensive training and lectures and experienced hands-on training in these various farms.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	RBME Survey	<p>Conduct face-to-face survey to the effectivity of ATI interventions to Kalinga farmers</p> <p>RBME Data Gathering. The main purpose of the Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Result-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (AFE RBME) System is to determine the results of ATI interventions- policies, programs, and projects - as it answers the "so what" questions. If the interventions are successfully implemented, do the interventions produce the actual and intended results for the beneficiaries? The information gathered from the AFE RBME System can help ATI personnel, especially the ATI management and program implementers, to have a better understanding and knowledge of how interventions work. This performance does not only account for accomplishments in terms of deliverables and outputs made but rather for positive changes that happened in the lives of the clients.</p> <p>The study aims to measure the AFE RBME results such as the first Immediate Results like Increased access to interventions, Improved attitude, skills, and knowledge of clients, and Improved provisions of interventions. Second, the Intermediate Results like Increased productivity of clients, Increased empowerment of clients, and Increased resiliency of clients. Lastly, the Long-Term Results like the Increased competitiveness of clients. The pieces of training attended by the participants are 1) Training on Barangay Health Care and Management for Tabuk City, 2) Enhancement Course on Inbred Rice Seed Production for Seed Growers, 3) Coaching on Basic Marketing for CRA Beneficiaries of Ableg, Pasil, Kalinga (Principles of Marketing with Support Intervention) and 4) Training of Trainers on Modernized Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization.</p> <p>The interview was conducted on July 17-22, 2023, at Grand Zion Tabuk City Kalinga. Seventeen (17) participants were able to attend the face-to-face interview while 3 were interviewed through phone calls.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Monitoring	<p>Field monitoring on the status of Learning Sites of Agriculture (LSAs) of CAR</p> <p>Benchmarking for certified LSAs of Benguet, Ifugao and Kalinga (CAR) was conducted by ATI-RTC-CAR on July 11-13, 2023. This enables LSA cooperators to gather insights and to learn from one another's best practices and be inspired and equipped with more knowledge and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>📍 <i>Garden nen Ines (Fernando R. Gonzales, Shilan, La Trinidad)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home of different varieties of Anthurium for almost 35 years. - On-going construction is being done on the 1st floor of guesthouse 2 intended for kid's playground and kitchenette. - Participants of the LSA benchmarking were amazed with the various and rare Anthurium collections of the farm. <p>📍 <i>Cosmic Farm (Rogel A. Marsan, Beckel, La Trinidad)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family-owned business with a total land area of 4,000m2. - A lot of improvements were made during the pandemic that includes the building of the Cosmic kitchen and the "mabuhay" accommodation which has 10 rooms and can accommodate 4 persons/room. - There are on-going three (3) batches of TESDA Scholarship Training on Organic Production. - ATI- CAR FYFIPT Interns for Taiwan are also having their homestay in the farm. As part of their PDOC, they are staying on the farm for brief training and orientation in various agricultural-related activities particularly on Organic Production. - Cosmic farm is aiming for continuous development of farm facilities that will help them fulfill their role as an Organic Farm in the region. - For continuous learning, they are active in attending seminars/trainings/congress to further improve their knowledge and skills, technologies, and practices. <p>📍 <i>Juamar's Training and Assessment Center (Ivan D. Baguilat, Lamut, Ifugao)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GAP Certified farm - They are practicing drip irrigation during the dry season. The soil type of the farm easily dries up, affecting the growth of the plants. - Fruits like papaya are used in making FFJ and Bokashi which they also used as fertilizer in the farm. - Ornamentals and various crops were planted as landscape in the farm. - Improvement and maintenance of the farm is still in place. There is on-going construction for a multi-purpose hall near their camping area. <p>📍 <i>Dee Bee's Farm and Enterprise (Catherine Buenaventura, Lamut, Ifugao)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total land area of 5 hectares. - The farm is specialized in the production of durian, with 50 fruit trees fruiting for 15 years. Mother trees are from Davao. - Venturing to ornamentals started during the pandemic. - Their application for PGS is on-going - Maintenance of the farm is still in place. They are in the finishing stage of their lodging house with 4 rooms and can accommodate 4 persons/room.



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Field Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 <i>Ayuman Aggani Farm (Camilo T. Lammawin, Tabuk City, Kalinga)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few standing crops are present, they just harvested pineapples and some vegetables before the LSA benchmarking. - There is an on-going TESDA Scholarship Program on Poultry Production - They have started the adoption of drip-irrigation and construction is on-going. - The farm is also being used as a venue by the Tabuk City LGUs and of the ATI-CAR during their on-site training and activities. - Income from the production of the farm is being used for the development of the whole farm. 📍 <i>Mansaja-aw Eco-Farm (Rachel D. Maling, Saudi Bulo, Tabuk City, Kalinga)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total land area of 2.4 hectares - There is a newly built holding area, about 30 meters X 25 meters wide, that can accommodate more or less 100 pax. - TESDA Scholarship training is scheduled to start this 3rd quarter of 2023. - Fruit trees can be seen in the farm which include mangoes, bugnay, coconut, lemon, and cherry. Ms. Maling will try to plant coffee trees under the mango trees. - There is also an area for picnics, camping and a bonfire. 📍 <i>Daguitan Kan Tangkib (Froilan T. Albert, Bagumbayan, Tabuk City, Kalinga)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total land area of 11 hectares planted with 6,000 coffee trees for 10 years now. There are also 86 cacao trees planted in the area. - The pathway to the coffee farm was flattened by a tractor which made the farm tour easier. - The farm is well maintained but Mr. Albert still practice the traditional way of maintaining coffee trees. This was commented on by Ms. Catherine Buenaventura. Although she didn't say it aloud, she still thinks that going back to the old practice of growing coffee is not advisable because with the new technology, growing and harvesting coffee was supposed to be much improved now. <p>There is on-going construction of a parking area for the visitors that will visit the farm.</p>
Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR	<p>Training in Excel Operations-Advance Level</p> <p>The training was held at ATI-Central Office, Diliman Quezon City on July 12-14, 2023, attended by Ms. Aiza B. Abdul Accountant I and Ms. Mary Joy E. Walsie, AFU Administrative Assistant for budget.</p> <p>The following were the topics discussed during the three-day training: the different Advanced Excel Functions such as Logical and Information Functions, Statistical and Mathematical Functions, and so on; Data Management was also included in the course where Conditional Formatting, Data Validation, Consolidation Tool, and Creating a Pivot Table are highlighted; and lastly, the Charts.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	INDCCR	<p>RCEF Refresher Course for Rice Specialist</p> <p>The refresher course aims to expand rice specialists' knowledge of relevant rice technologies and skills in field problem diagnosis, offering a comprehensive review of the palay check system while also incorporating updates. The refresher course emphasized the following topics:</p> <p>The Agro-Ecosystem Analysis (AESA)- because the management observed that some of the farm schools conducting Farmer Field School (FFS) are posting action photos, but it can be observed on the photos that there are inconsistencies in the procedure in doing the activity; the Bio-Control agents for rice pests- the Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) discussing the different BioCon that can be used against rice pests namely, <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i>, Earwigs, and Wasp; the Balance Fertilization Strategy that focuses on the use of cost-efficient and proper combination of organic and inorganic fertilizer that sustains crop production and maintenance of soil health; and lastly, the Pesticide and Pesticide management, highlighting the adverse effects of pesticides on the environment, consumers, and pesticide applicators. Moreover, a series of field activities were also done.</p> <p>This training was attended by Mr. Jaypee D. Na-oy, Agriculturist I on July 10-20, 2023, at PhilRice- Central Experiment Station, Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.</p>

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Noted by:

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Center Director/Division Chief

Date: August 9, 2023