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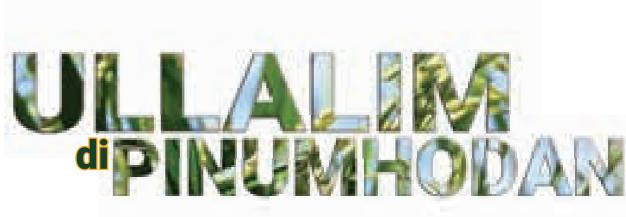
Esjay M. Zausa

PHOTO BY: Karen F. Tagkitag, Edward P. Saldivar, Jaypee D. Na-oy

'ULLALIM DI PINUMHODAN':

"Ullalim di Pinumhodan" is a combination of Ifugao and Kalinga term for "Stories of Prosperity". The title represents the content of the magazine which highlights the success, progress, and favorable developments of the RCEF -RESP exemplar beneficiaries.

These stories shine a light on how individuals and communities have leveraged opportunities provided by the program to elevate their agricultural practices, livelihoods, and overall quality of life.



Volume 2

A compilation of the success stories of RCEF-RESP exemplar beneficiaries of ATI-RTC-CAR

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A Journey of Self-Taught Farmer to Accredited Learning Site and a Farmer Leader

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



CHARLIE C. SAGUDAN
Training Center Director

Through the years, the Agricultural Training Institute-Cordillera Administrative Region, along with the other bureaus and attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA) is committed in delivering excellent extension services along agriculture and fisheries. Called as the capacity builder, knowledge bank and catalyst of the Philippines Agriculture and Fisheries extension system, we embark to continuously carry out our mandates to the different stakeholders of the AF sectors, especially our farmers.

The ATI-RTC-CAR is grounded to provide interventions aiming to contribute toward rural development. Various programs are being implemented to our stakeholders like trainings and provision of after-support; services along information and educational and communication; and support to extension modalities like learning site for agriculture. From these interventions, we are able to gather inspiring stories worth telling.

Again, we are honored to serve as a channel in sharing the stories of our partners from the field. Their stories testify that challenges are drivers to keep on learning and to be determined to rise above the trials. True to all, these farmers have openly shared their knowledge and skills, resources and their lives so that others will be encouraged.

To our valued RCEF LSA Cooperators who unselfishly shared their stories, may you continually be blessed. Your inspiring story will be valued, appreciated, and more importantly a continuing driving force towards development.

Together, let us be inspired by these farmers as we bring you their stories.



MAXIMINO R. AROMIN JR.
Assistant Training Center Director

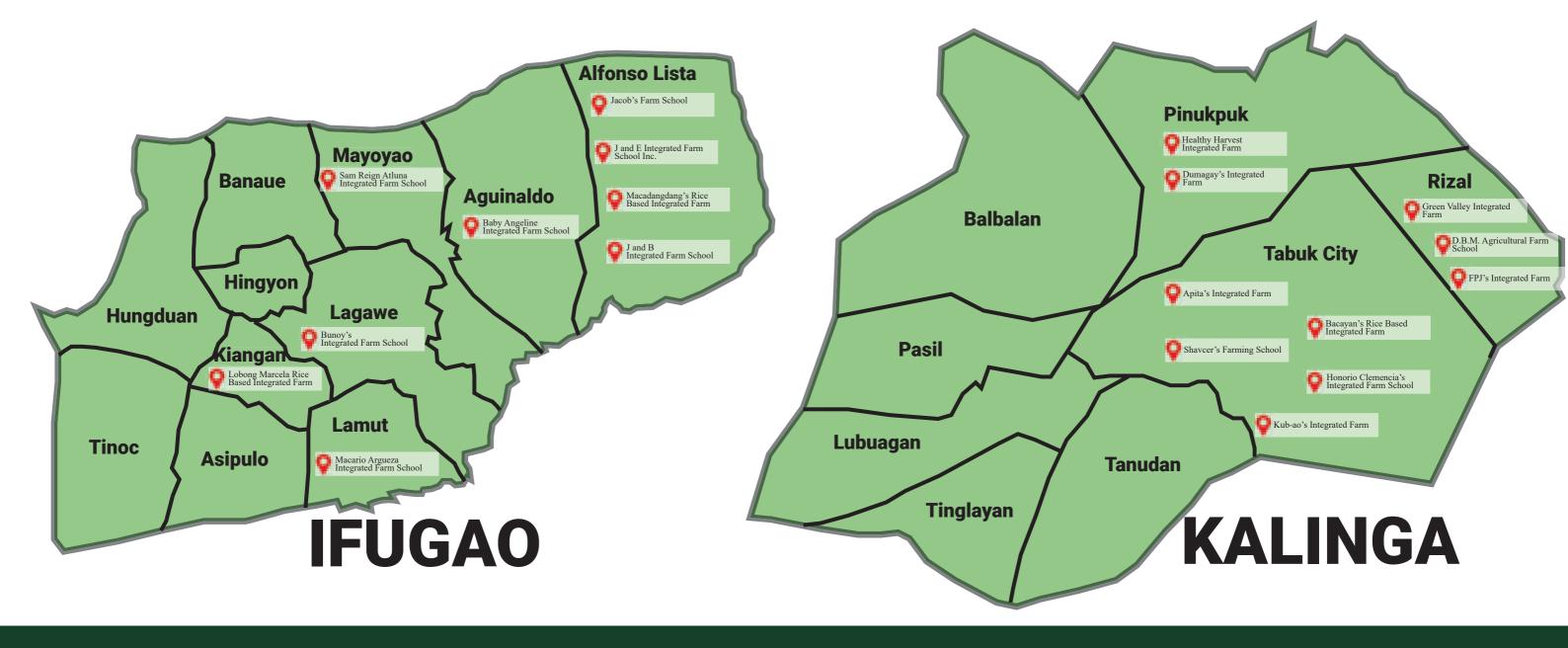
The role of the Learning Sites for Agriculture as a bridge of technologies and good farming practices to improve the productivity of farmers is very critical.

They act as "big brothers" that guide marginalized farmers to become competitive and resilient through the various technologies they share.

Documenting success stories of farmers who act as learning sites is pivotal in advancing agricultural practices and sustainability. These stories not only highlight the innovative techniques and strategies employed by successful farmers but also serve as powerful tools for knowledge transfer and inspiration. By documenting and sharing these experiences, we create a valuable resource that can guide and motivate other farmers, policymakers, and stakeholders.

These narratives provide practical insights into overcoming challenges and achieving productivity, thus fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement in agriculture. Ultimately, this compilation helps bridge the knowledge gap, promotes best practices, and contributes to the overall development and resilience of the agricultural sector.

I salute all the ATI-LSAs and the ATI-RTC-CAR RCEF team and the Career Development and Management Section for crafting this piece of work.



The LSA under the RCE Program

The RCEF Rice Extension Services Program (RESP) Since 2019, the Agricultural Training Instituteempowers farmers with modernized rice production techniques, farm mechanization, and entrepreneurial skills. It includes training programs, farm schools, and scholarship opportunities, in pilot provinces of CAR, specifically Ifugao and Kalinga.

RCEF aims to boost rice yield to six tons per hectare while reducing production costs by 30%. Through information campaigns, radio broadcasts, and Learning Sites for Agriculture, farmers gain access to science-based innovations and support, ensuring resilience in the face of challenges. With these initiatives, the DA is paving the way for a sustainable, competitive, and globally viable rice industry.

Regional Training Center Cordillera Administrative Region (ATI-RTC CAR) has been actively implementing various capability-building activities to support the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program. These initiatives are strategically aligned with ATI's thematic framework, LEADS- an acronym that represents Learn, Exhibit, Advise, Disseminate, and Support. Through this approach, ATI-RTC CAR fosters knowledge-sharing, skill enhancement, and community engagement, empowering rice farmers to adopt modern techniques and contribute to a more competitive and sustainable rice industry.

As part of its initiatives under thematic area Exhibit,

the ATI-RTC-CAR was able to establish and enhance showcases the effective application of relevant 16 Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) in the provinces of Ifugao and Kalinga. Of these, 15 LSAs have registered their farm schools to offer the Farmer some cases, an LSA may also host a agri-processing Field School on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization, equipping farmers with essential skills and knowledge for modern rice farming. Additionally, 3 LSAs established under the Regular Rice Program have also secured accreditation from TESDA to deliver the same learning course.

In 2019, 3 learning sites were accredited under RCEF, they are D.B.M. Agricultural Farm School, Bacayan's Rice Based Integrated Farm and Jacob's Farm. These LSA's serve as a model farm that

agricultural technologies, implement practical farming strategies, and successful farm operations. In enterprise, operated by a processor who may not necessarily be a farmer or a member of a farming family.



D.B.M. Agricultural Farm School Inc.

Administrator: Danilo B. Manuel

Babalag East, Rizal, Kalinga



As a dedicated farm administrator,
Mr. Danilo B. Manuel did not only
transformed the lives of his own family
but also positively impacted to the local
farmers in his community. His career
started in the Local Government Unit of
Rizal, but unforeseen circumstances led
him to shift his path towards the field of
agriculture.

For him, this redirection proved favorable as farming served as his permanent profession.

Through this profession, he was able to provide for his families needs and send his children to school, enabling them to finish their chosen degrees in higher education.

Today, through his Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), he is able to help empower his fellow farmers to adopt technology and innovations introduced in increasing the yield and income throughout the entire production process.







His Humble Beginnings

Mr. Manuel is a 67 years old who has a degree in BS Commerce. Before his full commitment in the world of agriculture he first worked as the Municipal Development Cooperative Coordinator and a Municipal Settlement Assistant. These roles enabled him to develop skills in community management, giving him a deep understanding of community dynamics that proved invaluable in his agricultural journey.

However, his career in the government sector ended when the division he was engaged with was dissolved.

"Ti kunak idi nag end ti trabahok idiay municipio

ket kunak no awan en ti pagalak ti pagbiagan mi.
Ngem idi agtrabtrabahaok pilang gamin municipio
ket isabsabay ko nga taltalonen day bassit nga
talon mi. Ket idi naikat ak en trabaho ket kala ejay
ngay nga biglak nga napanont nga apay nga han ko
nalang efocus ti oras ko nga talonen day bou nga
talon mi. Ket diay pinadas ko ket kaasin ti apo ada
met maiparparuwar na nga pag biyag mi. (When
my contract ended with the municipality, I was really
having a problem in finding a source of income
to sustain my family. However, when I was still
affiliated with the government I was simultaneously
working with a small parcel of our land. After the
termination, I decided to till the entire land and
realized the need to dedicate my time to farming. As

I ventured, I found that the Lord truly has a way of providing for us)".

From that time, he started tilling his land and dedicated the whole portion to rice production. He invested with some machineries such as hand tractor and sought advice from agricultural experts to enhance his skills, and learn techniques needed in the management of rice farming.

During that time, one of his biggest challenges was finding a way to financially support his children's education. He worried about how to cover their school fees, but thankfully, with the Lord's guidance, farming became his way through. He was pushed to practice 3 cropping season in a year so they would have enough resources to cover their expenses. Back then, the cost of farm inputs was relatively low, enabling them to earn a reasonable profit from each cropping cycle. This practice allowed him to cover his children's tuition fees.

"In addition to rice farming, we looked for ways to diversify our income. My wife started raising pigs at the small parcel of our rice production land, providing us with additional income that greatly supported our day to day living", he recalled.











learning and growing









Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Through his years of experience in rice production, he expanded his knowledge and skills, enabling him to assist local farmers in his community. In 2019, he was accredited as a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), which allowed him to expand his services by offering learning course on the production of high-quality inbred rice and seeds and farm mechanization.

With his accreditation as LSA, he was provided with a grant and used this to establish a learning hall, marking the official launching of D.B.M. Farm School. "Dakel nga banag daytoy nga hall para kanyak enya ta iso ti pakaururnongan dagitoy papada nga manalon nga interesado nga makaadal tib aro a wagas ti panagtalon. (This learning facility has been of great help, as it brings together my fellow farmers who are eager to learn new methods and techniques in rice farming", he shared.

Acknowledging his limited knowledge on rice production innovations, he joined the training of trainers on production of high-quality inbred rice and seeds and farm mechanization in 2020. Through this, he was able to deepen his understanding on right amount and timing of fertilizer application which enabled him to produce an average of 130 cavan's per hectare in his rice production. He shares the knowledge gained from the capability building activity with his community through the conduct of Farmers Field School.

"Sharing my knowledge to the community is essential. I don't want this knowledge to remain only with me, it should benefit others as well. Seeing them implementing or adopting these technologies gives me a sense of fulfillment. When I see their happiness with the results, I feel that I have succeeded in sharing my knowledge with them", he added.

After his trainees complete their learning





session, he finds time to visit their farms to monitor their progress and provide guidance and encouragement. Through these follow-up visits, he often witnesses the real impact of his teaching.

Noticing that his learning hall was no longer sufficient to accommodate his clients, he invested in expanding it to provide a more conducive learning environment for his community. This new space allowed him to host larger groups, facilitating hands-on training sessions and interactive discussions that fostered a deeper understanding of rice farming techniques and innovations.

Apart from rice, Danilo has diversified his farm, integrating high-value crops like eggplant, string beans, and tomatoes, providing an additional income while waiting for the harvest season of rice. He also sees this practice as a tool towards a sustainable farming, allowing him to maximize the resources that are available in his production area.

He also encourages his fellow farmers not to be afraid to try new methods or technologies. He advise them not to let uncertainties hold them back as innovation can help them achieve higher yields in their farm production.

For him, farming is more than just about providing for his family or a simple livelihood, it is a source of fulfillment, a legacy and a blessing he never expected but fully embraced.



Farming is a journey of hardwork, perseverance and patience. The greatest reward for all the sweat and effort comes when I see my children walking accross the stage in their togas on graduation day- a dream made possible by the fruits of the farm ,

he concluded.





In 2020

seven LSA's were accredited, they are Kub-ao's Integrated Farm, Honorio Clemencia's Integrated Farm, Shavcer's Farming School, Green Valley Integrated Farm, Lobong-Marcela Integrated Farm, Bayawon's Farm and J and Integrated Farming School Inc. LSA serves multiple purposes, making it a valuable resource for agricultural education and development. It functions as a practicum area, complementing classroom learning with hands-on and practical experiences.





Kub-ao's **Integrated Farm**

Administrator: Teodoro Kub-ao Jr.

Bulo, Tabuk City, Kalinga



Driven by a deep desire to uphold his family's legacy and provide for their needs, Mr. Teodoro Kub-ao Jr. chose to embrace farming as his lifelong profession, despite holding a degree in **Civil Engineering.**

"Farming was our only source of income, so we had dedicate ourselves fully to it. It wasn't just about planting and harvesing; it was about maximizing what little we had to ensure we could sustain our needs", shared by Mr. Kub-ao as he recalls their condition during his childhood.

Now 60 years old, he manages Kub-ao's Integrated Farm, an accredited Learning Site for Agriculture by the Agricultural Training Institute. As an accredited LSA, he serves as an inspiration to different generations embracing modern agricultural practices.

His success right now was not the result of an easy journey. When he was four years old, his father passed away, leaving their mother to work tirelessly in the field, to support their family of ten. His shared struggles inspired him and his siblings to persevere. He became a working student balancing his school responsibilities while helping on the farm. Through his dedication and hardwork he obtained his respective degree.

Today, Mr. Kub-ao returned to farming, realizing its potential for sustainable livelihood.







His Humble Beginnings

After finishing his degree, he was first employed by the Provincial Local Government Unit of Kalinga as a Job Order. Realizing that his profession was not aligned to with his interest, he decided to leave the office and assist his mother in cultivating their farm. Here, he applied his degree by continuously innovating and integrating systematic approaches to farming.

Accordingly, "Diay panag ikat ko ngay ediay work ko idi ket kasla iso ngay ti nangited pay kanyak iti opportunity. Ta a kas imimprovek ngay daytoy farm ket makaenencounter ak iti agencies nga kasla mang asasisst kanyak ken mangiumumay iti programs da, (When I left my job back then, it felt like it opened up opportunities for me. It allowed me to focus on improving the farm, and as I worked on this improvements, I encountered agencies that provided assistance and introduced me to programs that were available and applicable to the farm)".

Just like other farmers in his community, he employs diversify farming system, integrating livestock, vegetables, rice, poultry and fishpond. He sees this as an opportunity to maximize the potential of his income.





Before receiving accreditation under the Rice Competitiveness

Enhancement Fund (RCEF), Mr. Kub-ao's farm already served as a learning hub, particularly for out-of-school youth under Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Agriculture. His farm was used as a learning hub for 4H members in their community, teaching them various practices on agricultural production.

Recognizing the potential of his farm, he was given the opportunity by TESDA to offer Agricultural Crop Production, a course designed to provide hands-on training in crop cultivation and modern farming techniques. This responsibility created an impact on the local youth and farmers by providing essential skills to enhance their agricultural practices.

He stated "These interventions would not have been possible if I had not participated in various capability-building activities which enhanced my knowledge and skills in agricultural production. I am very grateful to the agricultural sector agencies, as I was always included in these learning sessions".

















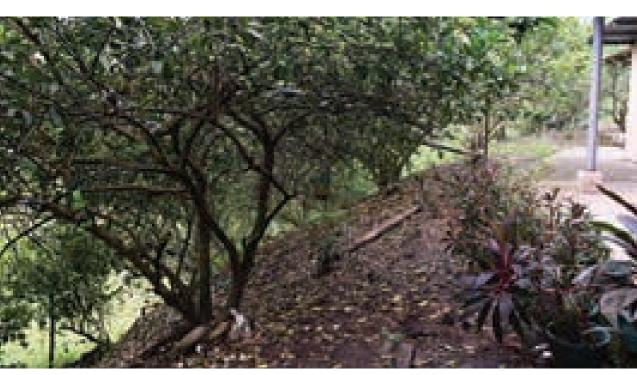


FFS action: learning and growing













Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

"Sakbay tayo nga na accredit as RCEF-LSA ket ada dagiti partnership nga activity nga enconconduct tayo with ATI. Ken nakitraitraining tayo metlang kenyada. Sunga with the partnerships ket iso metlang Trainers on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice nangkitaan da nga ada potential na daytoy farm tanu and Seeds and Farm Mechanization. agbalin nga LSA, (Before being accredited by RCEF, we worked closely with ATI. They recognized my potential, and recommended me for accreditation. Without ATI's support, I wouldn't have reached the level of recognition I have today)", he mentioned.

Through this continued partnership, he gained qualifications to apply for TESDA's farm school. As a result, in 2021, his farm was officially recognized Learning Site for Agriculture under the RCEF program. With this, he joined the Training of

This training provided him with valuable knowledge and skills which he integrated into his rice production, resulting in an average harvest of 10 metric tons per hectare. "Dakel talaga ti impact na daytoy mechanization iti farming practices, (This mechanization has had a significant impact on farming practices)", he mentioned.

His accreditation provided him with a small start-up capital to establish his training hall. Considering that the capital was not enough, he has also used personal funds to complete the learning hall to accommodate students interested in joining the Farmers Field School on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization.

Through the conduct of FFS, Mr. Kub-ao has trained individuals, from aspiring young farmers to experienced growers, equipping them with the skills needed to adapt to the challenges of modern agriculture. His mentorship and continuous learning have not only elevated his own farm but inspired

others to transform their agricultural practices, driving progress throughout the community.

With a clear vision of making his farm a learning area, he continues to innovate and improve his facilities, offering accommodation and catering services through the income generated from the conducted batches of FFS. This investment in the farm's infrastructure became a model which inspired other farm schools in the province to adopt similar innovations.



"Mayat ditoy ayan me ta agiinapal kami in a good way. No ada makita mi nga napintas nga innovation nga inaramid ti kadwa me ket ma inspire kami ngay nga managaramid met wenno ag innovate met,

(What's great about our place is that our attention is drawn when we see other farm schools improved.

When we witness good innovation made by our fellow farmers, it inspires us to do the same or to innovate as well)", he shared. For him, diversifying the services he provides contributed to his economic development.

He may be fully devoted to his farm, yet he also holds a leadership position in his community as head of the Borobor Integrated Irrigators Association. In

He may be fully devoted to his farm, yet he also holds a leadership position in his community as head of the Borobor Integrated Irrigators Association. In this capacity, he played a crucial part in requesting resources, including water pumps and tractors, which significantly enhanced the productivity and sustainability of local farmers in the organization.

As a leader, he worked to provide the needs and support of his organization to succeed, strengthening his reputation as a dedicated leader and a catalyst for progressive transformation in the sector.

As he continues to train and mentor future generations of farmers, he shared that success is attained through hardwork, perseverance and willingness to learn.



Mr. Kub-ao's vision remains clear: to build a sustainable and self-sufficient farming community that thrives, no matter the challenges. He is a beacon of hope for others, proving that with persistence and vision, progress is possible even in the face of adversity.





Green Valley Integrated Farm

Administrator: Johnny O. Carillo

Macutay, Riza, Kalinga



"Ti sekreto ti panagballigi ti biag ket tay ikatten tayo ti ugali tayo nga tallo nga S, sadot, sulit ken sansane-eng, (The secret to success in life is to remove our habits of laziness, passivity and makingexcuses)" emphasized Johnny Carillo.

At 70 years old, Mr. Carillo's journey as a farmer began not as a chance but a necessary choice-one he had to make, as farming became his only source of income in the early years. He is a native of Macutay, Rizal, Kalinga who holds a degree in Agriculture and the current LSA Administrator of Green Valley Farm School.

Despite holding a degree in agriculture, he was first employed at a rural bank as a production technician. However, his salary at the institution was not enough to support his growing family. This led him to apply for a loan which he used to venture into agriculture, realizing the opportunities it could provide.







His Humble Beginnings

"Nag-start ak ti zero, (I started from scratch)", Johnny recalled. He mentioned that his humble beginnings, started from scratch with no land of his own. When opportunity came, he ventured into farming through a loan of P6,000 from a rural bank, which he used to acquire small plot of land for cultivation.

As a start, he asked his brother to cultivate the land, resulting in a harvest of 100 cavans of rice. From this, Johnny received 25 cavans as his share. The result of the harvest inspired him to personally till the land.

"Idi damo marigatan ak ta ado ti loss ko, nakaencounter ak ti problems ejay panang till ko iti land ta nagrigat talaga no agrugi ka iti scratch (I struggled a lot when I was starting because I had many losses. I encountered problems when I started cultivating the land, as it was difficult to start from scratch)".

It wasn't until his third cropping that his perseverance paid off. He covered his costs from his crops and finally began to see the fruits of his labor. He rented more land, growing his rice production. Eventually, his farm expanded to six hectares, and Johnny's hard work began to attract attention.

In 1992, Johnny's leadership and determination earned him a seat as a Sanguniang Bayan member in the municipality of Rizal. This experience fueled Johnny's commitment to uplifting the lives of his fellow farmers. He became an organizer and leader, spearheading the formation of Makutay Multipurpose Cooperative, and helping ittransform from a small organization to a thriving farmers' cooperative.

FFS action: learning and growing



















Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Faced with the challenges of conflicting schedules, he realized he needed to make a choice. He decided to give up both politics and his leadership responsibilities, choosing instead to dedicate his time to improving his farm. For him learning is a continuous process, so he actively seeks out various opportunities to enhance his knowledge and skills in farming.

He has joined various capability building activities such as bookkeeping, managerial trainings, good agricultural practices and production and postproduction practices. With his dedication, he was recognized as a Gawad Saka awardee in 2015.

"Para kanyak haan ngay nga umno diay nagaget ka lang, ta uray no nagaget ka no han mo metlang amo ti araramidem ket useless metlang. Sunga para kanyak mayat ngay nga ginagaget ko nga napan naki adadal ta iso ti nakasursuraak kadagijay umno nga maaramid no maipanggep iti panagtalon, (Hardwork is not enough. Even if you're dedicated, if you don't know what you're doing, it's still useless. That's why, I consider myself fortunate for being persistent in attending trainings, as they taught me the right approaches to farming)."

Mr. Carillo also emphasized the importance of

staying updated with modern farming techniques. He Through his role as LSA, he was able to benchmark was one of the first in Kalinga to be certified in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), which opened more opportunities. His farm, Green Valley Farm, was accredited as a Learning Site for Agriculture under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program in 2019.

This for him is a calling. Assisting farmers is his way of giving back all the support he has received from various agencies. He acknowledges that most of his products have been supported by various agencies.

innovations and technology in rice farming, which led him to achieve an average yield of 110 cavans per hectare, compared to his previous average of 50 cavans per hectare.

Mr. Carillo is also practicing Integrated Farming System, integrating mango, rice, fishponds and other types of crops in his farm. He believes that using diverse crops enhances the productivity and sustainability of his farming operations. The integration of different plants allows efficient use of resources available in his farm.















Babaen integrated farming system, nakasigurado ak iti dadduma a pagsource outan ti kita. Nu manpay pumalpak ak ti maysa, ada ladta income ko ti dadduma nga mula, (Through the practice of integrated farming, I was able to diversify my sources of income. If one of my crops failed, I could still earn from other products).









His philosophy to success is to "ikaten ti tallo nga S- sadut, sulit ken sansane-eng (eliminate the attitude of laziness, passivity and making excuses)". He mentioned that achieving a goal requires openness to learning, proactivity and persistence. Continuous learning, hard work, and determination have been the driving forces behind his success.

Looking ahead, he envisions himself helping his community by sharing his knowledge and skills in farming. True success is measured by the impact he creates within his community.//



Honorio Clemencia's **Integrated Farm**

Administrator: Honorio Clemencia

Balong, Tabuk City, Kalinga



From a young age, Honorio Clemencia, 66, followed the footsteps of his parents, embracing a life rooted in farming. Although financial constraints prevented him from completing his own education, farming enabled him to give his five children opportunities he never had. With patience and dedication, Honorio transformed his beginnings into a diversified agricultural enterprise which proves his hard work and vision.

By transforming his farm into an accredited Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), he was not just able to make it as his source of livelihood but also created a space where farmers with diverse backgrounds can learn, grow, and find inspiration.

Despite being a high school graduate, Honorio's dedication and vision for farming have earned him recognition and opened opportunities for other farmers. His passion led him to being honored as a national "Gawad Saka Awardee" in 2018, paving way for valuable connections and interventions that have supported his journey.



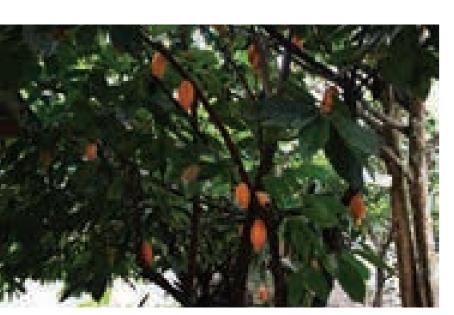
His Humble Beginnings

"Since 1982, ket nagfarfarming ak en idi inggana iti 1997 nga naawan ti naganak mi. Idi naawan da metten ket inpasublat da kanyakun daytoy talon, ket ejay nga time nga nagfull time ak nga nagtalon, idi 1997 inggana tadtan, (I started farming in 1982 until 1997 when my parents passed away. After their passing, I took over the management of our farm and became a full-time farmer, a commitment I have devoted myself to ever since)", he recalled.



Farming was a profession that Mr. Clemencia started since he was young. He had been farming rice, vegetables and raising goats, making most of the resources available. Farming helped him send four of his five children to college. He also supported his nieces and nephews who lacked resources, helping them finish their education.







With a vision to improve and develop his products, he saw the potential of diversified farming system integrating various crops into his farm. In 2011, he started developing his farm, carefully planning the lay-out and selecting the appropriate areas for each crops to be planted. He integrated fruit trees, vegetables, livestock and rice in his entire production system. As he worked on improving his farm, the retired City Agriculturist recognized his potential growth and success.

In 2015, he Saka Awa He success the nation did not store pushing his practices. Fueled by growth and success.

With encouragement and guidance from the agriculture office, Mr. Clemencia documented every single development he incurred in his farm. His journey to the GAWAD-SAKA awards was not easy.

In 2015, he made his first attempt for the "Gawad Saka Awards" under the integrated farming category. He successfully advanced to the regional level, but the national award remained elusive. This failure did not stop him to bring home the national award pushing him to continue improving and refining his practices.

Fueled by his determination, in 2018, his perseverance paid off as he finally won the national GAWAD-SAKA Award in rice production under diversified farming.

Despite his meritorious achievements, he continues to face challenges that affected the growth and yields of his agricultural products.



Ti number one nga problem nga talaga nga maenencounter ko ditoy farm ket dagitoy natural calamities tayo. No agtalon kami, dry season kami lang nga talaga nga kumita. Ngem no wet season ket han nga sigurado kasi kaaduwan na ngay ket mabagyo dagiti mula mi no kasjay nga wet season, (The biggest challenge i faced is natural calamities. While we can earn during the dry season, the wet season is unpredictable as storm often damage most of our crops).







FFS action: learning and growing















Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Before being accredited as LSA under RCEF, his farm was first accredited under the Rice Program. He later trained under the RCEF in 2019 and in collaboration with TESDA he received his registration in agricultural crops production as well as in conducting Farmers Field School on the Production of High Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization. These certifications eqquipped him to help other farmers improve their methods through specialized training programs and practical learning experiences.

With ATI's support, he was able to build a vermicomposting facility and a storage room for farm tools, improving his resources. He found vermicomposting valuable as it reduced his dependence on costly synthetic fertilizers and supported organic crop production.

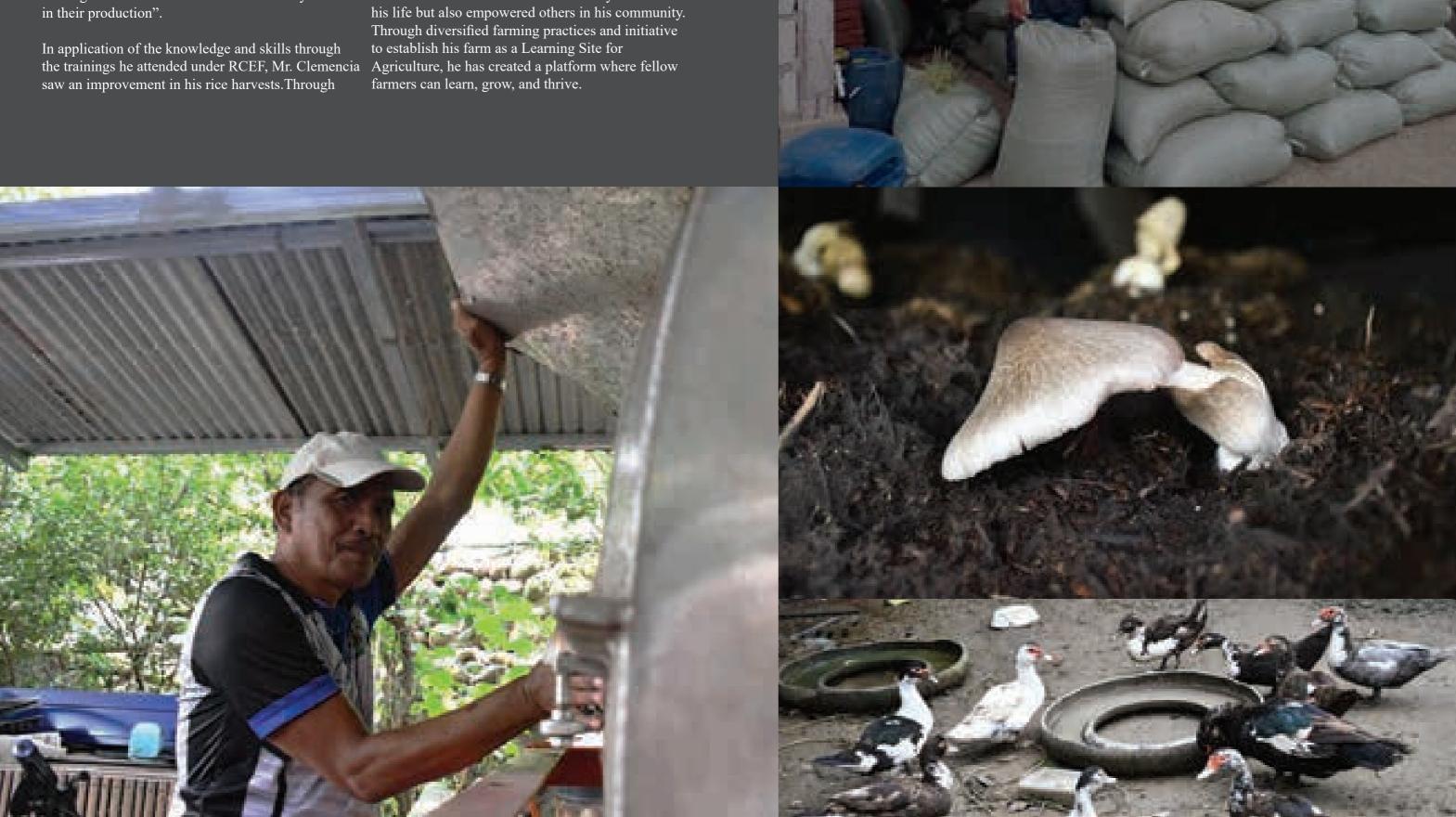
The investments made in the farm are notable, especially when it comes to providing additional support like community-based training on mushroom production, nursery management, and farm mechanization. To suffice the need in the conduct of FFS and ACP courses, he invested in the purchase of equipment such as hand tractors, grass cutters, and sprayers. He also received support from the government in the form of combine harvester and hand tractor, which significantly boosted his productivity.



After each FFS, he conducts monitoring to his graduates, assessing how they implemented their learning in the session. He said, "Many trainees expressed their grattitude for the free programs, as they gained knowledge in which they can apply in their own communities. Some even visit our farm

improved farming practices, the quality of his crops has significantly enhanced, increasing his yield from 120 to 150 cavans per hectare.

Despite the challenges of limited education and the hardships posed by natural calamities, his seeking assistance with the machineries they can use commitment and dedication has not only transformed







In 2021 to 2022

As a training venue, the LSA provides a hub for conducting training sessions and extension activities, offering participants immediate, real-world applications of agricultural concepts. It serves as visitor sites, welcoming farmers, rural community members, ATI training participants, agriculture students, and private individuals to observe and learn agricultural practices. They also act as work immersion sites, giving students an opportunity to gain real-world experience that supports their academic and professional growth. Thus in this year, nine LSA were established, these are Dumagays Integrated Farm, FPJ's Integrated Farm, Healthy Harvest Integrated Farm, Baby Angeline Integrated Farm, Macario Argueza Farm, Sam Reign Atluna Intgerated Farm, Bunoy's Integrated Farm, Apita's Integrated Farm and Macadangdangs Rice Based Integrated Farm.



Apita's **Integrated Farm**

Administrator: Leila S. Apita

Appas, Tabuk City, Kalinga



"My love for farming was influenced by the members of the family", shares Ms. Leila S. Apita as she never imagined that after finishing her bachelor's degree, her future would take her back to the fields.

Ms. Apita graduated in 2003 with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education Major in Mathematics. Growing up, her family is directly involved in agriculture. Little did she know that the experiences shared by her family would eventually lead her to the world of agriculture.

Her Humble Beginnings

Before her engagement in the field of agriculture, she worked as a factory worker in Taiwan for three years. After completing her contract, she made the decision to return home, saying, "Iba pa rin ang nandito sa Pilipinas, iba pa rin ang kasama mo ang pamilya mo. At least alam mong secured sila, (It's still different living here in the Philippines, when you're with your family. Knowing that they are secure)." Her desire to be close to her family ultimately drew her back, despite the opportunities she had abroad.

Going back to the country, farming became the primary source of income for her family alongside her husband. She never imagined that she would be able to establish a learning environment that would support and empower her fellow farmers in the community.

In 2020, she had the opportunity to participate in the training of trainers on production of high-quality inbred rice and seeds and farm mechanization. This learning accomplishment pushed her to become a trainer and facilitator at Shavcer's Farming School owned by Ms. Virginia Sacki at Bantay Tabuk City, Kalinga.



















FFS action: learning and growing











Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Her satisfaction as a trainer shifted when she was encouraged by her colleagues and family member to establish her own learning field. "Idi damo nga agpayso ket ag alanganen ak, ta hanko amo no kayak ba nga imanage ken day problema iti financial aspect. Ken haan ko amo no kasanuk nga rugian, (At first, I was hesitant, I doubled my ability to manage it properly and I was concerned about the financial aspect. I also didn't know where to start)".

Her first major investment was the establishment of the learning area in her field. She thought that the amount of P150,000.00 from the Agricultural Training Institute was enough to establish the learning area, but it was not. Luckily, her family stood with her, providing her additional financial and moral support. With their assistance she was able to

complete her learning area.

Behind her little-by-little progress was her mother Ms. Marcelina V. Saquing, a retired supervising agriculturist at the Office of the City Agriculture Services, Tabuk City, Kalinga. "Actually ni mother ti nangipush kanyak to continue ti panang establish ti daytoy nga learning site. Ket ediay ko ngay nga nakita nga ada pailang day passion na nga agserve ken mangtulong iti pada nga manalon. Diay panang alalakoy na kanyak nga diay ket iso ngay ti nangalaak ti motivation nga rugian ken paspasan nga earamid dagitoy papeles na daytoy farm school, (Actually it was my mother who pushed me to continue the establishment of this learning site. I saw her passion to serve and help the local farmers in our community. Her continuous encouragement has

motivated me to start and fast track the process of the In 2022, she was given slots to conduct Farmer needed requirements)." Field School on the Production of High-Quality

Unfortunately, after establishing her farm there was no available slot for the province. Which led her to decide to join the Rice Specialist Training Course organized by DA-PhilRice-Isabela. In hindsight, she saw the unavailability of the slot as a blessing. The RSTC enabled her to master the entire rice production process including managing of pest and diseases, weeds and overall farm management. Participating in the RSTC proved to be a valuable experience, as it equipped her with knowledge and skills that she could apply not only in her current farming practices but also in future endeavours related to rice production.

In 2022, she was given slots to conduct Farmer Field School on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization. She admitted that the greatest challenge in conducting the FFS is convincing learners to embrace the technologies and innovations being taught to them. But she was able to overcome by involving her learners through a hands-on demonstration.

"You need to show tangible results of what you are teaching. To complement what we have been teaching, I have made sure that my family and I practice the very same techniques that we are teaching", she explained.



For her, farming is not just about planting crops; it is about cultivating strong relationships with the community and uplifting others through knowledge sharing. Working together towards a sustainable future. Through years of experience, she learned that passion, dedication and respect are the keys to making an impact and encourage local farmers to adopt with new technologies and innovations.

As she continues to empower local farmers, she hopes that RCEF would continue to support trainers and administrators to reach communities that has a low access to technologies.













Healthy Harvest Integrated Farm

Administrator: Alma Mae B. Cortez

Junction, Pinupuk, Kalinga



"Resilience, passion, and dedication to community service", shares Ms. Alma Mae C. Cortez after leaving Taiwan as Textile Machine Operator and started her new career as a trainer and facilitator to her fellow farmers in the municipality of Pinukpuk, Kalinga.

Ms. Cortez is a Juris Doctor and a former Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who began her journey as a trainer at Honorio Clemencia's Farm. Her career as a trainer started in Agricultural Crop Production, assisting her fellow farmers in the City of Tabuk.



Her Humble Beginnings

Transitioning to agriculture was not an easy journey for her and her husband since her degree is not directly related to the agriculture field. At first, adapting to the practical and technical demands of farming was a major challenge, which drives her to look for opportunities that would help enhance her skills.

"Edi damo talaga marigatan ak ta daytoy talon me nga daytoy ket inpaububra mi lang, sunga zero knowledge ak ta ejay kami Baguio nga nag iiyan. Sunga daytoy area edi ket puro kapagayan, kamaisan ken ada lang ti 80 hills nga manga. Before, I am very truthful ken honest nga I am not really interested into agriculture, into farming sunga kasla binaybay-an mi lang daytoy nga area edi. ("At first, it was hard since we hire other people to work on this field, that's why I really had a zero knowledge as regards to farming since we had stayed in Baguio City. Back then, this area was planted with rice, corn, and only about 80 hills of mango trees. Honestly, I wasn't really interested in agriculture or farming, so I ended up neglecting this area back then)."

Her journey to agriculture paves its way when she was tapped by Mr. Honorio Clemencia to become a trainer under the Agricultural Crop Production. Through this, she was equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills in the various stages of farming. This lead her to improve her farm area at Pinukpuk, Kalinga to produce different variety of crops and other fruit trees.

In 2019, she had the opportunity to join the Training of Trainers on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization and in 2021 she finished the Rice Specialist Training Course organized by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute- Isabela (DA-PhilRice-Isabela). This experience inspired her to become a trainer specializing in the production of high-quality inbred rice, seeds, and farm mechanization ultimately leading her to embrace farming as her permanent profession in the country.













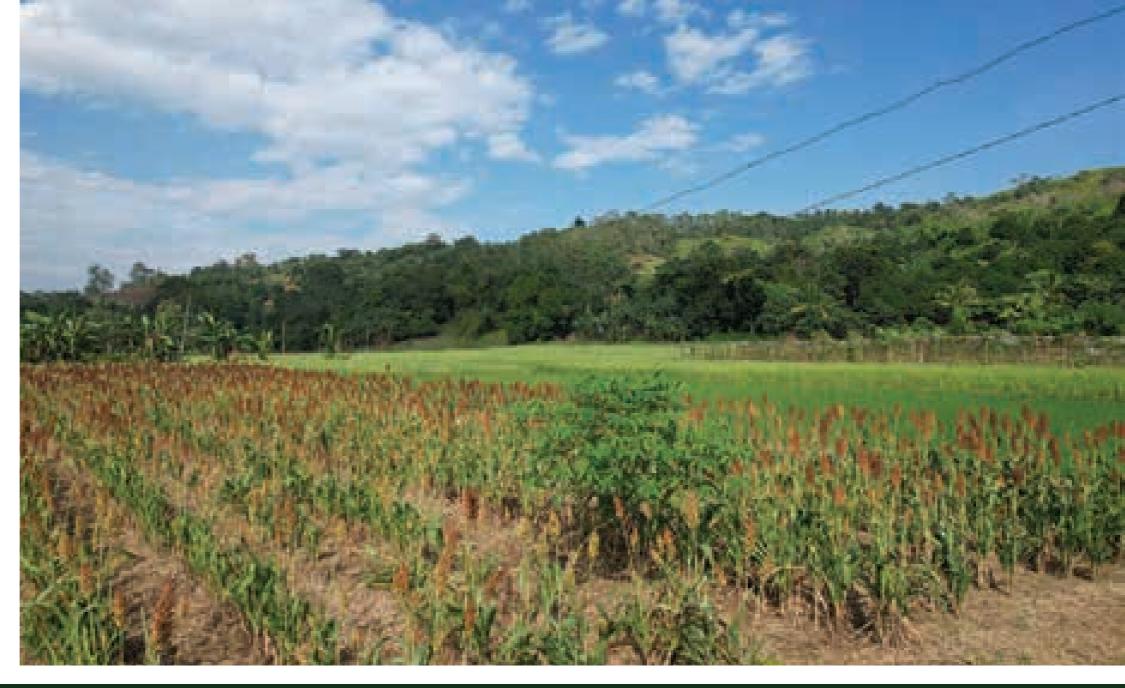












Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Being accredited as a Learning Site for Agriculture was not an easy journey for her. Her first attempt to apply was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. She also struggled with self doubt. Observing the administrators of RCEF-LSAs, whom were a national awardee farmers made her question whether she was capable to achieving the same level of success.

This challenges led her to sell some of her properties in the locality and reconsider her application, she even reached a point where she contemplated abandoning her efforts and returning to work abroad. However, Mr. Clemencia encouraged her not to lose hope and to continue enhancing her farm. He assured her that by enhancing her farm and preparing it well

she would be ready for any future visits from the validation team.

"Actually, idi nagtawag ni sir Clemencia offering nga ti ATI ket agbirbirok ti ma establish nga LSA ket mejo nag alanganin ak ta kala han ko kaya nga e level day status ko kenyana. Then di inbagak nga kala han ko kayaen ken kala kayat kon nga ibati dagijay narugiak ditoy tas agsubli ak working abroad ket kunan na piman nga agabroad ka ket aprehas lang ti earnings ken uray man dakdakdakel ngem ti maysa nga han na magatadan dayta ket tay ada ka ditoy nga kadwam dagita pamilyam. Ket diay ti maysa nga nang attaract kanyak then kunana nga tulongan dak ken esuro na no kasanu ti ikasta na. (Sir Clemencia called to inform me that ATI

was looking for an LSA to establish. I was hesitant because I felt my status wasn't sufficient. I expressed my doubts saying I wasn't sure if I could handle it and that I was thinking of leaveing what I had started to go back to work abroad. He reassured me, saying that even though working abroad might offer higher earnings, it would still be similar to what i could make here. More importantly he emphasized that the one thing money can't buy is the quality time spent with family. That resonated with me and became one of the factors that drew me in. He also assured that he would help and guide me through the process)."

The statement she received from Mr. Clemencia was her turning point and deciding factor to continue and diligently improve her farm. Indeed, in July 02,2021,

she receive her certificate as an accredited Learning Site for Agriculture under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program.

With her accreditation as LSA, she assisted more farmers in her community. She introduced new rice farming technologies and innovations in her municipality increased yield and income and improved livelihood of her fellow farmers.

Apart from rice production technologies, she integrated learning courses on food processing such as baking, and making of chips among others.

Also, her sorghum production, which she manage alongside her husband, has provided them with a valuable source of additional income, further diversifying their livelihood and strengthening their financial stability.

From 2020, she was able to assist and train 1,650 farmers from the City of Tabuk and Municipality of Pinukpuk, Kalinga. Her assistance to farmers did not just end with training but also linked some of her fellows to the Department of Trade and Industry- Kalinga Provincial Office to receive extension service activities such as trainings on food processing.

Also, her income from the farm school enabled them to send her children into a private school and support some of her relatives.

"I was once in their shoes- full of dreams but held back by financial challenges. As long as I see their drive to suceed, I will help them. I want to give them the chance to succeed, so they, too, can reach a point where they can help others in turn", shares Ms. Alma.











Alma's impact on the community was profound and served as an inspiration to the women in their community. "Our learning in the Farmer Field School were very helpful, especially for me as i wasn't very familiar with rice farming. I remember a time when I only knew how to eat rice, but upon completing the course I gained valuable knowledge on proper rice management and how to increase yields. Additionally, through Ate Alma's guidance, we were inspired to always go for what we want to achieve, regardless of the trials that come along way", states Gemma C. Garcia, a graduate of FFS in the year 2022.

As she witnessed her graduates applying what they learned on their own farms, she experience a deep sense of fulfillment and reward. Seeing the tangible improvements in their practice brought her joy and satisfaction, serving as a testament that her efforts and service are making difference.





Dumagay's **Integrated Farm**

Administrator: Bonifacio Q. Dumagay

Cawagayan, Pinukpuk, Kalinga



"Enka papapintasen dayta farm ti daduma haan ketdi nga dayta farm mo ti enka isimpa, (Instead of fixing the farm of other people why not focus enhancing your own farm)" Mr. Dumagay recalls how his friends used to tease him, which ultimately motivated him to start cultivating his own land.

Mr. Bonifacio Dumagay is a 65-year-old farmer from the municipality of Pinukpuk. He earned a degree in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Animal Husbandry. With decades of experience in farming, he has willingly shared his expertise to the local farmers in his community by introducing practices and innovations to enhance their farming productivity.

As accredited Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), his journey was marked by a pursuit of growth, support from government programs, and a commitment to his community.





His Humble Beginnings

Mr. Dumagay, after finishing his degree in 1980, he has pledge his time to managing their own farm since there are no available people who could cultivate their land. During that time the field is planted with corn with limited source of water and growth potential.

Years later, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) expanded their service in the municipality. When water supply was made available in his community, he transitioned his corn field to rice field. However, the inconsistent water supply resulted to a low average yields in his rice production. "Daytoy area tayo ditoy ket ada iti tail end sunga ag awan ag ada iti supply dita irrigation, sunga iso ti maysa nga challenge tayo ditoy nga dakel ti effect na iti yield ti production tayo, (Our area is located at the tail end of the irrigation system hence the water inconsistencies which affected the yield of our production)", he explained.

He refused to let this challenge hold him back. Instead, he sought opportunities to thrive by experimenting with the integration of various crops including fruit trees and vegetables. Alongside these, he introduced livestock into his farm, allowing him to diversify his income at the same time enriching his knowledge on integrated farming system. His resourcefulness caught the attention of some personnel in the agriculture sector, offering him to be a farmer leader in their municipality. Through this, he was able to participate in various capability building activities enabling him to benchmark technologies and innovations applicable in his production area. As a farmer leader, he bridged the gaps between his co farmers and government agencies, bringing new techniques and insights directly to the fields. He also participated in Gawad Saka Awards in 2013 enabling him to receive resources and supports to improve his farm.

Along the way, he struggled with his production since they are into traditional farming. "No kitkitaen tayo ket naudi tayo ti technology enya. No ecompare tayo ket adayo nga naparpartak ti panangtrabaho ti machines ken natiptipid. Ngem idi gamin ket nagina ti agavail idi ti kakasta which results metlaeng ti nababa nga adoption idi, (As we see it technology lags behind. Comparing to manual labor, machines are faster and far more efficient. However, in the past, accessing such equipment was costly which resulted into low adoption rates among farmers)", he claimed.

However, today, access to machineries was made available through associations making these machineries available in their respective localities.







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FFS action: learning and growing

















Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Mr. Dumagay back then, was tapped to become a farm manager by private entities in his nearby municipality. With his skills in landscaping, he developed and improved farms in a wellorganized appearance.

"Ngem that time ket nakantiawan ak ngay kadagituy kakadwa nga manalon ditoy, ta apay kanun ga enak esisingpa wenu papapintasen ti farm ti sabali nga tao a haan ketdi a tay farm ko ti inak tutukan. (Back then, I was teased by my colleagues that instead of fixing the farm of other people why don't you just focus on enhancing your own farm)", he shared.

These sentiments fueled him to finally improve and develop his farm. With the developments made, his farm was utilized by the Department of Agriculture and Philippine Rice Research Institute as a technology demonstration for rice production. Through the demonstrations and trainings attended, he was encouraged to apply for LSA by the Agricultural Training Institute.

His journey to becoming an LSA was filled with challenges. His initial application was declined because he had not yet met some of the necessary qualifications for the role. Unshaken by this setback, he remained determined. Years later,

after fulfilling the required criteria, he reapplied with renewed enthusiasm and was eventually granted the opportunity to serve as an LSA.

When the farm was accredited, he received a financial assistance, and used this to build a training hall. The initial funding was not enough, so they took out a small loan to complete the project. His learning area was used to cater students who participates in the Farmers Field School on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization. Over time, as he earned small profits, he reinvested them to improve the farm, making it conducive for learning.

As a farm administrator, his goal was to ensure that the trainers receive as much knowledge as possible, even though there's no guarantee that they will stay long. With his goal, he sends his trainers to participate on various trainings for them to gain additional knowledge in farming. He wants his trainers to be equipped with valuable skills so they can share with others wherever they go.











For him, his success was rooted on fostering strong relationships with other people. This belief drives his unwavering commitment to helping and sharing his expertise, empowering others to grow and succeed alongside him.





FPJ's **Integrated Farm**

Administrator: Freddie Pacion

Kinama, Rizal, Kalinga



Other people doubted him due to his educational background. "Enya ngay ti kaya na dayta nga ag Learning Site ket haan pay nga nakalipas ti iskwela na, (How can he perform as a Learning Site if he was not able to finish his studies)," Freddie recalled. However, this judgement and his eagerness to help other people was his stepping stone and motivation to continue and process his papers to become accredited Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA).

"Ngem para kanyak ket ti panpanonotek idi ket tay ikastak nga makatulong ti pada a manalon, ta haan met nga tay natorpos ti pagbasaran no kayat ta nga makatulong iti pada tayo nga manalon, (But for me, what matters is the desire to help fellow farmers, it is not about having a formal education, but it is about the desire to help other people in farming)."

Mr. Freddie Pacion is a 36-year-old farmer from the municipality of Rizal, Kalinga. He was also elected as a Barangay Kagawad and designated as chair under the committee on Agriculture. Throughout his journey as a farmer, Kagawad and farm administrator, he was supported by his wife Ms. Rowena Pacion.

His Humble Beginnings

Since he was young, his eyes were opened in the world of agriculture. It has become the backbone and the source of living of his family. Farming was the only livelihood he knew since his parents who had not completed their education, relied solely on it to sustain their household. He assisted his father in tilling and cultivating land from planting to harvesting their crops. This experience enabled him to master the process in crop production.

When he got married, his father entrusted him a piece of land to cultivate. It was the first land he worked on with his wife. As they grew and learn from their experiences, they decided to buy another parcel of land expanding their area to manage. A better way for him to supply the food on the table for his family.

"Diay farming ket isu ngay ti nag alaan mi ti pagbiyagan, nagbalin met nga source ti makan. Instead nga agatang ka, why not nga agsarili ka ngay nga agmula ti pagay mo, tapno ada iti apitem. At least safe pai diayen. Instead met nga gumatang ka kadagita karne, kas kada ta manok, agala ka na lang ditoy farm. Isunga maymayat diyayen tapno libre tay kanem ken amom nga safe ta sika ti nangtaraken, (Farming is our main livelihood and it is also the source of our food. Instead of buying rice, why not grow your own? This way, we were able to harvest for our own consumption. Instead of buying meat and chicken, you can just get it from the farm. You are assured that it is safe to consume)."

His experience and knowledge in farming has provided sustenance for his family. Despite the odds, he is still committed to continue farming and sharpen his knowledge to various technologies to help him in his entire production area.



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FFS action: learning and growing











Towards Learning Site for Agriculture

Mr. Pacion acknowledged that his knowledge through the implementation of FFS. and skills in farming were not sufficient. In 2020 he took the initiative to join in the Farmers Field School on production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization implemented by Green Valley Farm School. His participation to the FFS introduced him to the concept of becoming an LSA.

After some time in 2021, his farm was accredited as a learning site with the help of his nephews and the municipal agriculture office of Rizal. In the same year, he was able to participate in the Training of Trainers on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization. His learning gained in this session was his tool in assisting farmers in his community

As a learning site, his farm is not just focused on single crop. He has a diversified farm integrating livestock and vegetables in his rice production. Apart from rice, he also produce ampalaya and livestock. Through diversified farming he has been able to minimize risks associated with crop failure, ensuring a steady flow of income throughout the year. He shares this technology of him is shared to the farmers by his community through integrating it to the module of his FFS.

"No agconconduct ak iti FFS, ket napintas ngay nga makitkita da daytoy location ti farm ta atleast nga makita da nga integrated ngay dagitoy ada ditoy nga mula ken makita da nga nagpintas

ti rubwat na diay pagay. So ejay ket hanak en marigatan nga mangiexplain kadagitoy technology ta makitkita dan day mayat nga effect na no surusruten tayo day technology nga isursuro tayo, (In the conduct of FFS, we show how everything is integrated. Participants can see the crops growing and observe the rice field. So, it's not hard for me to explain the technology because they can see the positive results when we follow the methods we're teaching)", he claimed.

Seeing his farm grow, he implements innovative techniques that bridge the gap between traditional farming and modern agricultural practices. He ensures that his students would foster camaraderie and trust with each other, so even after completing their session, they would continue to

support each other as they return to their respective communities. During the conduct of FFS, he includes practical session for students, such as synchronized field activities, encouraging teamwork and leadership among the students.

Today, his farm continues to receive support and interventions from various agencies. Apart from the FFS funded under TESDA, he also accepts FFS from the Department of Agriculture. For him, these programs are essential in empowering farmers in his community and equipping them with the latest agricultural techniques. He sees every training session as an opportunity not only to improve his own practices but also to help others succeed.



He envisions to broaden the scope of his services. He plans to expand his farm's offering by incorporating other commodities and services to widen opportunities for learners.

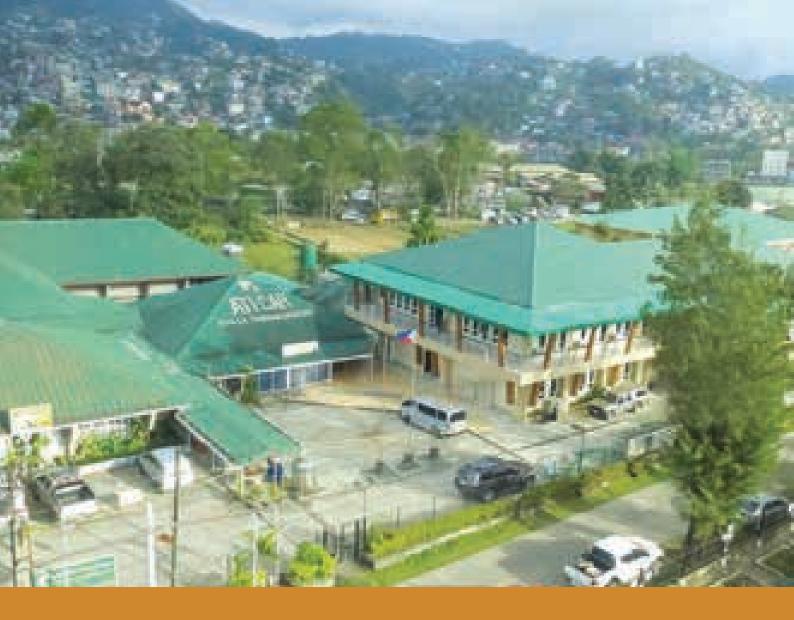
"Ket no sumamoen tayo ket ti purpose na met daytoy farm school tayo ket tapno makatulong tayo iti papada nga manalon. Ket incase nga awan iti funding tayo ti FFS ket ituloy tayo ladta ti operation na daytoy LSA. Welcome ladta dagiti papada nga manalon nga umay agdamag weno makipag adal ti technology, (The purpose of establishing of LSA is to support our fellow farmers in the community. Even if funding for FFS will stop, the farm school will continue to operate. Farmers will still be welcome to seek assistance and learn new technologies in farming)."











For more updates on the various Projects, Programs and Activities of Agricultural Training Institute-Cordillera Administrative Region you may scan the following QR Code

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The official Web Page is utilized in sharing valuable information regarding agricultural production, programs, stories, announcements, and the various mandates of the network.

ATI Cordillera Facebook Page



The official Facebook page is used as a platform to promote the centers initiatives related to agriculture, training programs, announcements, and other forms of support. This helps in connecting farmers with valuable resources