



Umasenso

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2012 PAJ Bini Award

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Sec. Alcala meets farmers, fisherfolks in Sorsogon and Albay

by Emily B. Bordado

True to his promise that the DA under his watch will "bridge the gap and touch the hearts" of farmers, fisherfolks and its other stakeholders, Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala regularly makes his provincial sorties

to interact with farmers and fisherfolk and turn-over agricultural projects and goods to beneficiaries and clients. This is one way of bringing the government closer to the people.

For the 16th time, secretary Alcala

visited two Bicol provinces- Sorsogon and Albay on January 29th and led the Stakeholders' Meeting and Farmers' Forum. He first went Sorsogon City where some 2,500 farmers, fisherfolk,

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2 Bicolano volunteers received national awards

Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC) Chairperson Carlito P. Aquino of Ocampo, Camarines Sur and MAFC Coordinator Lydia Monda of Pamplona, Camarines Sur were awarded Outstanding MAFC Chairperson and Outstanding MAFC Coordinator, respectively by the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) during the 1st PCAF Volunteers Day Celebration on March 9, 2016 at the Hotel H20, Ermita, Manila.

The Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) Coordinator Cecilia Nuñez of Masbate and Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) for Bicol Coordinator Imelda O. Acompañado were also recognized as National Finalists.

(Please turn to page 7)



Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala awards the facsimile check worth P60,000 to Carlito Aquino (left) and Lydia Monda (right) during the 1st PCAF Volunteers Day Celebration in Manila.



Rice processing centers boost rice milling industry in Bicol

(Story on page 12)

DA Bicol braces up as El Niño segues to La Niña

While most regions posted negative production last year and in the first quarter of the 2016 as a result of the occurrence of El Niño and other weather disturbances, the Bicol region was among the few regions which posted positive palay production in 2015 and up to the 1st quarter of 2016 and most likely up to the 3rd quarter of 2016. In fact Bicol region went some notches higher over its production performance last 2015. Some 359,348 metric tons of palay are expected to be harvested between April to June this year based on standing crop covering 94,810 hectares as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority. Based on planting intentions PSA estimates Bicol will have a rice production of 877,122.43 metric tons at the end of September. From its 6th rank Bicol goes up to 4th rank among major rice producing regions of the country.

The major growth drivers of rice production in the region are the use or adoption of modern technology such as the Precision Fertilization which makes use of Information Technology (IT) and web-based technology such as remote sensing and Global Positioning System (GPS) to collect and process data from agricultural fields; the Rice Crop Manager (RCM), a computer and mobile phone – based tool providing rice farmers with a personalized crop and nutrient management guideline. Also, the opening of new and restoration of additional irrigated rice areas plus the improved Research and Development and Extension Delivery System contributed to the positive rice growth in the region.

Moreover, the increased utilization of high quality seeds under the High Yield Technology Adoption (HYTA) Program greatly contributed to the high production performance for rice. The pro active and quick response mechanism which

included rehabilitation and land preparation assistance and disaster preparedness which were well in-place helped in expanding production growth.

But the challenge now is how to sustain this growth especially as the forecasted occurrence of La Nina on the last quarter of the year threatens again the country including the Bicol region. With the possible adverse impact of La Niña on palay production PSA forecasts a scenario where our regional rice sufficiency level will go down a bit from 115.35 at the close of 2015 to 114.26 this year.

To avoid this scenario, DA Bicol is putting in place the necessary interventions to attain increase in production. It is focusing its attention on some 271 hectares of new irrigated areas that could possibly give a production of over 1,000 metric tons; some 1,092 hectares from restored areas that could give a yield of about 4,425 metric tons. Small Scale Irrigation Systems, Diversion Dams and Small Water Impounding Projects will also be established to cover some 630 hectares and possibly obtain a production yield of about 2,427 metric tons.

In the promotion of HYTA program, the implementation of high quality seed assistance scheme and application of micronutrients will be intensified. Rehabilitation will also be undertaken to ensure incremental rice yield for the region.

But all these strategies and interventions would only successfully contribute to the goal of achieving incremental yield if the farmers themselves would cooperate and the program implementers including the LGUs would do their part and make good their commitment.



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LEGASPI CITY -- Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala turned over to the City government of Legaspi, represented by Mayor Noel Rosal, the Organic Trading Post worth P1.5M funded under the Bottom Up Budgeting Project. Located just across the Albay Astrodome, the trading post serves as center of buying and selling of organic products from Legaspi City and neighboring municipalities. The trading post also showcases the latest technologies and good practices in organic farming. (Clockwise: Secretary Alcala and Mayor Rosal led the ribbon cutting and unveiling of marker during the inauguration of the Organic Tradind Post; City Agriculturist Jess Kallos stress a point with Sec. Alcala while Adelina Losa (left), DA Organic Agriculture focal person and Mayor Rosal (in white polo shirt) look on.

Letters

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March 11, 2016

Engr. Abelardo R. Bragas
Regional Executive Director
Department of Agriculture RFO 5
Pili, Camarines Sur

Dear Sir:

Greetings!

This pertains to the SIPAG-FIESTA (exhibits & bazaar) held at PCAARRD last 2-4 March. As one of the member agencies of BCARRD, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for providing the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials distributed during the said event. Such IECs facilitated the showcasing of technologies / breakthroughs re Pili technologies.

Again. Thank you very much for your support.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) MARISSA N. ESTRELLA, PhD.
Consortium Director, BCAARRD

BeRiceponsible campaign re-launched in Sorsogon



SORSOGON CITY--Advocacy shirts bearing “#No Farmer, No Food”, “Eat Brown Rice” and “Don’t Waste Rice”; brown rice delicacies food tasting, rice-alternative crops on a rolling store, information materials being read, exhibit with basic “Be Riceponsible” messages, and employees signing in the RICE-o-lutions Commitment Board were the scenes during the re-launching of the Be Riceponsible Advocacy Campaign here. It was held on March 7, 2016 after the Flag-raising ceremony of the employees of the Sorsogon Provincial Capitol.

Sponsored by the Office of the Provincial Agriculture of Sorsogon (OPAG-Sorsogon), the recitation of the Panatang Makapalay in their province is one of the activities of the “Be Riceponsible” campaign spearheaded by the DA and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice). The PLGU of Sorsogon is competing for the Be Riceponsible Search for Best Advocacy Campaign where a cash prize of P1M is at stake.

Agricultural Technician Debbie Ferwelo of OPAG-Sorsogon discussed the following topics: How to be Riceponsible; Kilalanin at Pasalamatan ang mga Magsasaka; and the Health Benefits of Brown Rice.

More than 150 guests and employees from the OPAG-Sorsogon, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Accounting and Budget Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Human Resources Management Office, Provincial Treasury Office, Provincial Veterinary Office, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Information Agency, COOP-NATCCO/SIDECO, mediapersons, Department of Agriculture-regional office, and PhilRice-Bicol in Ligao City attended the said event. Representatives from these

offices affixed their signatures in the Rice-o-lutions Commitment Board.

The attendees enjoyed the Brown Rice Delicacies like Suman Roll, Binamban using Calatrava Variety, Brown Rice Espasol, Brown Rice Coffee, cooked Brown Rice and Black Rice, and Blue Rice (Brown Rice mixed with Blue Turney Flower).

Rice Alternative crops like Banana, cassava, sweet potato were sold in the rolling store aside from papaya, organic lettuce and naturally-grown unpolished rice of black, red, brown varieties. These crops were produced by members of the Sorsogon Provincial Organic Farming Practitioners Association, Inc from the municipalities of Castilla, Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon City and Irosin.

Sorsogon Organic Agriculture Focal Person Felina Angeles said that the farmers cannot cope with the increasing demand for brown rice in the province. The use of organic concoctions as fertilizer is a tedious task so only a few farmers produce brown or black rice. However, the brown or black rice weighs heavier than the ordinary well-milled rice.

According to PENRO staff Arnel Atutubo, the recitation of Panatang Makapalay every week reminds him not to waste rice especially during special occasions, and eat rice alternatives like camote.

In an interview with the Provincial Agriculturist Dr. Ma. Teresa V. Destura, she expressed the need to thank the farmers because “we may need a doctor or a lawyer

once in a while, but we need the farmers three times a day for they produce the food that we eat everyday.” **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**

Participants pledged their support or Rice-o-lutions by affixing their signatures in the commitment board.



Food tasting of various brown rice based delicacies / products.



and other agri-stakeholders and guests gathered for the event.

As in his previous sorties he gave more time to open forum after delivering his speech. The highlight of his visit was the awarding/hand-over of P49M worth agricultural and fisheries goods, farm equipment, checks for livelihood and infrastructure projects to various farmers associations, cooperatives, rural based organizations, indigenous communities, local government units and other private groups who qualified as recipients of agricultural assistance of the province. Some production inputs and goods were also raffled off to lucky attendees. Also turned over are checks representing the 2nd and 3rd tranche releases for the farm-to-Market–Road projects under the Payapa at Masaganang

Pamayanan (PAMANA) for the LGU of Juban, Gubat and Prieto Diaz. And for the establishment of Flatbed dryer for the PLGU of Sorsogon totaling to P8.6M.

From Sorsogon Secretary Alcala proceeded to Legaspi City where a similar activity was also held. He also had a press conference with the local media at the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (APSEMO). After which, he turned over to the City government of Legaspi the Organic Trading Post worth P1.5M, located just across the Albay Astrodome. This will serve as the center of buying and selling of organic products from Legaspi City and neighboring municipalities and will likewise showcase not only organic products but latest technologies and

good practices as well.

The highlight of his visit in Albay was the stakeholders meeting and farmers' forum. Some 2,600 farmers, fisherfolk and other agri-stakeholders gathered at the Albay Astrodome for the purpose. He was welcomed by Albay Governor Joey S. Salceda and other local officials. This was capped by the awarding/turn over of goods and projects over P34.3M worth of agricultural and fisheries goods, farm equipment, and checks for livelihood and infrastructure projects.

The LGU of Ligao and Legazpi received P1.5M each for the Techno-demo and training sites for Organic Agriculture while the Bicol Consortium for Development Initiatives, Inc. (BCDI) in Legaspi City received P5M for Techno Demo and Capability

Building under the project: "Empowering Small Bicol Farmers Through Organic Agri-Based Techno Demo Capability Building, Social Enterprise."

Meanwhile, the LGUs of Daraga, Guinobatan and Libon received checks representing their releases for the implementation of their projects under the BUB which include, FMRs, agricultural facilities and equipment; farm machineries' post harvest facilities and construction of processing plants totaling to P14.2M.

The Phil FIDA, which is also an attach agency of the DA also awarded 5 units Improved Handstripping Device (IHSD) worth P10,000 each to the LGU of Polangui. Moreover various equipment for abaca processing worth P350,974.00 were also awarded to the Mayon Abaca Planters Association of Tabaco. This is part of the Bottom Up Budgeting Program.



WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

DA upholds women's rights

To celebrate the gains of the women sector in closing the gender gap and to continue the advocacy of prioritizing women's issues in various agenda, the Department of Agriculture Gender and Development program holds a series of activities for this year's Women's month celebration.

On March 10, close to 100 lady employees of the DA RFO 5 took a break from their busy work schedules and gathered at Avenue Plaza Hotel for a one-day fun fare, games and talks on gender justice and security for women. On March 15, over 100 rural officers and members of Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs), RIC coordinators, women leaders and tribal chieftains from all over the region converged for the regional Women's Month celebration in Nabua, Cam. Sur.



RTD Elena B. delos Santos



Lynn Z. Padillo

in women empowerment and nation building, saying that "if you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate the entire family."

On March 16, 10 women employees participated in the "Sama samang Pagsulong sa mga Agenda ni Juana" held at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park Manila, together with some 5,000 women from government offices, private

from the victim to file the case. RA 8505 provides assistance to rape victims and has established a Rape Crisis Center in every province and city. The Paternity Leave Act of 1996 (RA 8187) grants seven days leave to all married male employees in the private and public sector during the first four deliveries of their legitimate wives so that male spouses would provide the needed support and care for their wife and newborn baby.

of their father so they would not have to bear the stigma associated to children born out of wedlock, to claim support and to inherit a portion of the father's properties.

Yet, in some instances, the Philippine legal system is still unfair to women. In the revised Penal Code laws on marital fidelity, the law implies that husbands can get away with infidelity as long as they don't meet certain conditions and the punishment for adultery is heavier than concubinage. In disagreements over ownership of properties the husband's decisions always prevail under the Family Code. This law implies that husbands are wiser and have better judgment than their wives. Amendments to these articles were submitted to congress by the Phil. Commission on Women but the result remains to be seen.

Aloha Gigi Bañaria, GAD focal person discussed the rationale of the activity. She said RA 6949 series of 1990 declared March 8 of every year as National Women's Day. Proclamation No. 224 series of 1988 declared the first week of March each year as Women's Week and March 8 as Women's Rights and International Peace Day.

The DA GAD also turned over starter kits for women's groups during the regional women's month celebration. For rice-based products development, 2 units each of grinder, oven, gasul tank,

(Next page please)



Women's Day celebration at the Avenue Plaza Hotel which was attended by DA female employees.

In both activities, resource speakers were invited to talk on women's rights. Atty. Armeen Alain Gomez, Asst. Legal Officer of the Naga City Legal Office talked on justice and security for women and the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710). Meanwhile, Lynn Zuniga-Padillo, Chief Education Supervisor of Curriculum Implementation Division, DepEd Naga City inspired the participants to live a life of independence, courage and integrity in her talk in advancing women as decision-makers. She stressed the importance of education

sector and general public.

This year's theme "Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda" calls for gender balance in leadership and decision making positions both in public and private sector; inclusion of women's concerns in leadership platforms and the government's development agenda.

Several laws have been enacted to protect women's rights and recognize their contributions in the community. The Anti-rape law of 1997 (RA 8353), reclassified rape as crime against persons thereby giving chance to other persons aside

The Solo Parent's Welfare Act of 2000 (RA 8972) provides benefits and privileges to single mothers and their children. And RA 9255 provides illegitimate children to use the surname



Select DA employees participated in the national Womens Day celebration dubbed as "Sama samang Pagsulong sa mga Agenda ni Juana" held at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park Manila.



Ms. Aloha Gigi I. Bañaria, DA Planning chief, GAD focal person and rural based organizations coordinator.



Women's Day celebration for the women leaders, rural improvement clubs and other rural based organizations.

2-burner stove, steamer and set of measuring cups were given to 16 organizations composed provincial and municipal and city RICs, and Tribal Women's Organization of Ilian in Iriga City. Meanwhile, six municipal RICs each received one box apiary or bees. Likewise, 5 barangay RICs received 100 heads ducklings each.

DA lady Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension Dr. Elena B. delos Santos, in her welcome remarks, said that opportunities should be given to women to harness their talents and full potentials. She cited that the DA management under the leadership of Director Bragas recognized the quality of performance of women employees at the DA. "Pag babae ang gumawa hindi pwede ang pwede na, she quipped." At present 58% of the workforce of the DA RFO 5 is composed of women.

Dr. Delos Santos added that women don't need to wait for March 8 to celebrate women's day because every day is an opportunity to succeed and to show the women power. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**



2 Bicolano volunteers ... (from page 1)

The event was held to give recognition to the Department of Agriculture's private sector partners who continuously has been engaged and committed to the cause of the consultative bodies---the Agricultural and Fishery Councils and the National Sectoral Committees on a voluntary basis.

All regional winners received a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of Php15,000.00 each.

The national winners received a cash prize of Php60,000.00 each.

The Bicol delegation include Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council Chairperson Jose R. Cordero; Camarines Sur PAFC Chair Edgar A. Canet and Virginia F. Idaño, Camarines Norte PAFC Efren S. Mago, Sorsogon



PAFC Lillian Alic Lopez and Aida Diesta, Masbate PAFC Nora S. Aribon and Cecilia Nuñez, Albay PAFC Marlon Medes and Remedios Almazar, Naga ICCAFC Arnulfo De Los Santos and Liza M. Del Puerto.

The Criteria for Evaluation for Outstanding Chairperson include significant contribution to the agriculture and fishery sector; leadership; performance; sustained

commitment and service to the AFC; Agri-Fishery Undertaking/Business Activity; community involvement; outreach projects and initiatives; and family life. For Outstanding Coordinator, the criteria are efficiency, effectiveness, creativity, sustained commitment and service to the AFC, and family life.

The National Validation

Team which evaluated the nominees composed of Dr. Jaime Lopez of the National Dairy Authority; Rey Lazaro of PCAF, and Engr. Jahensi Supanga of PCAF-Partnership Development Division.

Aquino has been a MAFC Chair for five years while Monda has been serving as MAFC Coordinator for 17 years. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**

Farm mechanization increased rice production and

San Antonio Farmers Irrigators Multipurpose Coop (SAFIMCO) in Buhi, Camarines Sur

BUHI, CAMARINES SUR – Farmer recipients of DA's Rice Processing Center (RPC) here have proven that optimizing the use of modern technologies in rice farming can dramatically reduce postharvest losses and increase farmers' income. The increase in rice production in the 266 hectares service area of the SAFIMCO Rice Processing Center was evidenced by their record sales of P2,155,080 worth of milled rice purchased in 2015.

The San Antonio Farmers Irrigators Multipurpose Coop (SAFIMCO) in Buhi, Camarines Sur is one of the recipients of the Department of Agriculture Bicol's Rice Processing Center 1 worth P6M. Molina said the Rice Processing Center has been a godsend to their coop as well as to the rice farmers of San Antonio and neighboring barangays. Since its operation in the last quarter of 2014, more farmers have been encouraged to plant rice as there are now a ready postharvest facilities and they are assured of good quality

of their grain which are sought after by buyers. Farming in their barangay used to be labor intensive with just the carabao to help in the land preparation. During harvest time, farmers depend on sunny weather to dry their palay and sell them to comprada at low price.

But now with the Rice Processing Center and other postharvest facilities from the DA, the farmers can dry and mill their palay and sell them at higher price since the RPC strictly observes the prevailing buying price.

In June 2014, the DA thru its regional executive director Engr. Abelardo R. Bragas, turned over to SAFIMCO chairman Loreto Ceneta the P6M Rice Processing Center 1 with the following components: Multipass rice mill with 1 ton/hour capacity worth P1.2 M, 300 sq. meter warehouse worth P3.3M, operating capital worth P1M and administrative/capacity building worth P500,000. Previously, the SAFIMCO also received two (2) solar dryer,

one (1) tractor with trailer, one (1) flatbed dryer, palay shed and warehouse. Molina said these facilities greatly benefitted not only the more than 400 members of the SAFIMCO but even non-member farmers in the community.

The increase in rice production in the 266 hectares service area of the RPC can be gleaned from its operations in 2015 where it purchased a total of P2,155,080 worth of milled rice. During the first cropping season (Jan-June 2015) the palay procured totaled to 1,017 sacks amounting to P753,176. For the second cropping (July-Dec. 2015) the total palay procured was 1,587 sacks amounting to P1,190,595.85. Meanwhile, for the first cropping of 2015 the coop sold a total of 564 bags of milled rice amounting to P852,210.00 and 4,691 kilos of rice amounting to P37,528.00 registering a total sales of 889,738.00 for the first cropping 2015.

For the 2015 second cropping, the coop sold 868 bags milled rice amounting to P1,302,870, and 8,086 kilos rice bran amounting to P56,602. They deliver milled rice to neighboring barangays and to another BFT in Iriga City and commercial traders in Lidong and Maynaga in Polangui, Albay.

Another assistance of the DA Bicol was the Barangay Food Terminal which was established with the assistance of the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division, in March 2010. The BFT is equipped with chest type freezer, chiller, 2 units weighing scale, digital weighing scale, plastic sealer, 10 plastic crates, electric coco grater. The DA also provided P100,000 capital for NFA rice retailing and P 62,000 for the purchase of rice seeds. But after the



SAFIMCO has operationalized their Rice Processing Center, they stopped selling NFA rice with the permission of the NFA and the BFT serves as the outlet of their milled rice. The consumers preferred their milled rice because they said it is "clean" and has good eating quality.

The BFT has been very successful that they were able to construct an annex office which now serves as display area for their added products - hog feeds and farm inputs. Aside from selling meat products, root crops, fruits and vegetables, groceries and feeds at prices lower by P2.00-P1.50, the BFT also engaged in input dealership where they provide the needed inputs for the rice farmers thru a loan payable after harvest. For the 2015 second cropping, the BFT has loaned out a total of P82,000 inputs, 420 kilos hybrid rice seeds under HYTA, and 605 bags of fertilizer

The BFT's average daily sales is around P8,000. They hired two sales clerks who are being paid with 40% of the BFT revenues.

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boosts rice milling industry in Bicol

Since their operation, the BFT has financed the college education of two scholars and the maintenance of the street lights around the barangay.

Now, more than ever, many farmers would like to join the SAFIMCO so that they too would enjoy the fruits of the strong partnership between their coop and the Department of Agriculture, said manager Molina. He recalled that their coop started in 1992 with a meager capital of only P30,000. Now the SAFIMCO has P33M fixed assets.

Narangasan Multipurpose Cooperative (NMPC) in Milagros, Masbate

“Before, we don’t have capital for palay procurement in Masbate. When the DA went to our far flung town of Milagros, they not only gave us P1M capital, but also the P6 M Rice Processing Center which has been a blessing to our community,” said Vilma A. Fontellar, Chairman of the Narangasan Multipurpose Cooperative (NMPC) in Milagros, Masbate. The NMPC has 120 members. Among the benefits of the RPC in Masbate is the elimination of middlemen. The coop and the farmers who have availed of their services can now command better price



are established by DA in cooperation with Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and

Mechanization (PhilMech) to lessen dependence of farmers to rice millers and dramatically reduce post-harvest losses.

In 2014, the Department of Agriculture led by Regional Executive Director Abelardo R. Bragas, turned over to the NMPC the Rice Processing center 1 funded by the DA RFO 5 Rice Program, with the following components: Multipass rice mill with 1 ton/hour capacity worth P1.2 M, 300 sq. meter warehouse worth P3.3M, operating capital worth P1M and administrative/capacity building worth P500,000. Mayor Natividad



for their produce as palay are dried and milled first before marketing. Postharvest losses are minimized and the milling recovery has improved.

Rice Processing Centers

Isabel Magbalon likewise provided P1M counterpart for the project.

Starting its operation in June 2014, the coop is now buying palay from

farmers in neighboring municipalities. Fontellar said the establishment of the RPC provided added employment to the coop members as some members were hired as procurement officer, miller, and operators.

The coop is charging a measly P1.20 to members, the P0.20 of which goes to the coop capital build up. Meanwhile, P1.40 per kilo of palay milled is charged to non-members. This is 10 cents lower than other rice mills’ charge of P1.50 per kilo.

Bookkeeper Reynante Cataga, reported that for the year 2015, the NMPC has earned a net income of P311,075.00 from milling 8,313 bags or 384,644 kilos of palay. Expenses in the operation of the RPC is fuel or diesel and the salary of the four (4) operators which is equivalent to 35% of the gross annual income. The NMPC also buys palay from farmers. For year 2015 also, the NMPC procured a total of 899 sacks of palay incurring a total amount of P777,813.00.

The coop also generated income from the rent of one of their warehouses by the provincial NFA in the amount of P30,000 per month. The NFA also avails of their milling facilities.

Saradit na Kristiyanong Komunidad (SKK) Organic Farmers Association in Libmanan, Camarines Sur

Another recipient of RPC is the Saradit na Kristiyanong Komunidad (SKK) Organic Farmers Association in Libmanan, Camarines Sur. The DA regional office Rice Program funded the P16 M Rice Processing Center 2 with the following components: a multi-pass rice mill with 1.2 tons per hour output capacity and a minimum of 65% milling recovery; 1-ton weighing scale and 1 unit portable moisture meter; 3 sets recirculating grain dryer with biomass furnace with a holding capacity of 6 tons of wet palay per set; 550 square meter warehouse with complete drainage, rat proofing and a 3-phase line electrical system including transformers. Said RPC is located at the NIA Compound in Bgy. Handong, Libmanan.

Sherell Baricante, General Manager of the SKK said the RPC has benefitted the farmers in the 11 municipalities in 2nd district Camarines Sur covering the Diocese of Libmanan. The SKK is now composed of 80 farmers’ organization. Baricante added that the establishment of the RPC has provided employment in Libmanan since they hired professionals to operate the RPC. During harvest season, the SKK hires additional 25 laborers to augment their permanent workforce. Besides the usual procurement and trading, the SKK also offers agri credit at lowest interest rate.

Due to the bulk of their operation, the SKK was granted by DA with another 360 sq. meter warehouse, additional flat bed dryer with agitator and multipurpose drying pavement in the first year of its operation. On the second year, seeing the need for additional equipment and upon request of the SKK, the DA provided 1 unit combine rice harvester, 4 Wheel Drive mini tractor and mechanical transplanter. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**

DA consults CSOs on 2017 plans and budget

NAGA CITY – The DA Bicol represented by its Regional Executive Director, Engr. Abelardo R. Bragas, thanked the civil societies, the Local Government Units and the DA staff for their efforts in propelling agricultural growth in the Bicol region.

Director Bragas delivered his message during the Consultation with Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders on the DA Bicol 2017 plans and budget held on March 18, 2016 at the Villa Caceres Hotel this city. In attendance were top officials of DA attached agencies such as the National Irrigation Administration, Phil. Coconut Authority, National Food Authority, Phil. Crop Insurance Corp., Agricultural Training Institute, Phil. Fiber Industry Development Authority, officials and members of

Units to align their project proposals to high impact projects such as Farm-to-Market roads (FMR), irrigation and agricultural mechanization with emphasis on climate change adaptation. The DA is now focusing on projects that have long range effects. He also underscored the importance of consultations with CSOs in setting up the direction for proper planning and programming because the clients know better what is best for the region. “Although hindi lahat ng napag-usapan ay nasusunod, because there are guidelines to follow, he added.”

Meanwhile, DA Bicol Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension Dr. Elena B. delos Santos said the annual conduct of consultation is anchored on government’s thrust of engaging stakeholders. In



Planning division which spearheaded the consultation, explained that budget preparation of the whole agency is anchored on the Agriculture Fisheries Modernization Program of

PAMANA, and FMR.

Bañaria added that the 2017 thrusts and priorities of the DA are: 1) Increase investments in rural infrastructure and logistics, 2) Increase investment in research and development, 3) Strengthen extension support, 4) Provide technical support services including extension and marketing assistance, 5) Support the rice sector anticipating the possibility of trade liberalization, 6) Enhance regulatory services and support the Food Safety Act of 2013, 7) Increase resiliency to climate change, 8) Mainstream disaster risk reduction and management, and 9) Facilitate and enhance access to agricultural insurance and guarantee credit and 10) other concerns such as Gender & Dev’t, indigenous people, youth and others. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**



the Regional Agriculture and Fishery Council (RAFC), and provincial AFCs, representatives from the Local Government Units (LGUs), irrigators associations, farmers organizations and cooperatives, rural women and religious sector.

Director Bragas also urged the Local Government

the execution of its mandate to promote agricultural growth and development, the DA aims to foster transparency, accountability, integrity and good governance. Consultation is also being done to forge strong relationship with civil societies and private sector.

Aloha Gigi Bañaria, chief of the DA Bicol

CY 2011-2017 adopting the value chain approach and integrating climate change adaptation and stakeholders’ participation. She said that for 2017, DA Bicol has proposed a total of P6.5B including general administration and support, operations and locally funded projects comprised of Bottom Up Budgeting,

Cam. Sur farmers complete course on vegetable production

PILI, CAMARINES SUR - A total of 826 farmers completed the 16-week course on vegetable production via the Farmers Field School conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

The farmers which came from 22 municipalities of Camarines Sur were honored and awarded their certificates of completion during the mass graduation ceremonies held at the Central Bicol State University on February 15.

DA Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension, Dr. Elena B. de los Santos confirmed the graduates and awarded the certificates. She was assisted by provincial board member and agriculture committee chair, Nelson B. Julia who represented Governor Luis Miguel Villafuerte.

Director de los Santos lauded the graduates for showing their interest and enthusiasm to learn new technologies and good practices in vegetable production spending one full day a week for 16 weeks to complete the FFS course. She explains that the FFS modules now include climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to enhance farmer's capacity to cope and deal with the effects of climate change.



For his part, Board member Julia expressed his support to agriculture programs and announces that he is proposing an ordinance requiring LGUs to sponsor at least 10 scholars in their respective municipality who are willing to take up agricultural courses. Julia is also author of the provincial ordinance requiring the food service industry in the province to include half-rice serving as option in their menu. This is in support to DA's advocacy to Be RicePonsible.

Meanwhile, Rosita M. Imperial, DA's regional focal person of the High Value Crop Development Program (HVCDP) which coordinated, supervised and funded the FFS also announced that the DA through the HVCDP will launch the search for outstanding HVCDP farmers with good agricultural practices. She said big prizes will be at stake and the farm will be granted certification.

One of the highlights of the event was the folk media presentations by the graduates where various concepts and learnings about sustainable vegetable production were depicted in dances, songs, play, Folk speech or toast (tigsik) and other folk media genre. Ten groups competed for the major cash prize of P4,000; P3,000 and



Distribution of vegetable production starter kits.

P2,000 for the first second and third. The farmers from Iriga emerged as the biggest winner with its 2 teams Group 1 and Group 2 bagging the first and second place. The group from Tigaon bagged the third place.

Each participating municipality was given a vegetable production starter kit consisting of 10 cans o and 6 sachets of assorted vegetable seeds which include eggplant, hot pepper, tomato, ampalaya, melon, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower and lettuce and 10 pieces plastic crates. Some goods were also raffled off and brought home by lucky participants. These include garden tools, sprayers, and laminated sacks (plastic canvass).

Also present during the mass graduation were: Brim Mangubat provincial administrator who also served as one of the judges; Mayor Melquides Gaite of Baao, OIC-Mayor Moises Soreta of Bula, Tirso Perlas, DA regional Rice coordinator, Vivien Carible, assistant superintendent of the Agricultural Training Institute; Nena P. Adupe, Agricultural Program Officer (APCO); Emily B. Bordado, DA chief, info. Officer who served as chair of the board of judges, other LGU officials from the participating municipalities, some municipal agriculturists and technicians and HVCDP municipal focal persons who were also given recognition by the DA for their active support in the conduct of the FFS. **(Emily B. Bordado)**



Rice processing operators/managers trained on operations and management of said facilities

A four-day Training Workshop on Operations and Management of Rice Processing Centers was conducted by the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division held at Macagang Business Center in Nabua, Camarines Sur on January 25-29, 2016. The training was participated in by the general managers/chairperson of coop beneficiaries, bookkeeper, housewaremen, and procurement officers of the ten (10) recipients of Rice Processing Centers who are not enrolled in the National Food Authority. Seven (7) RPCs

are currently enrolled in the National Food Authority.

Topics discussed during the training included: overview of the Rice Processing Centers by Engr. Nilda Albano, DA focal person for Rice Processing Centers; Palay Procurement Policies Strategies and Procedures, and Marketing and Trading System by Nora Follosco, Assistant Provincial Manager of National Food Authority in Camarines Sur; Drying System and Procedure by Engr. Ricardo Bayani, Jr. of NFA Cam. Sur; Rice Milling Processes by

Engr. Allan Sabaybay OIC of NFA Masbate; Electrical Safety Assurance by Engr. Ricardo Bayani, Jr. of NFA; Warehousing System by Romeo Ocampo of NFA Cam. Sur; Rice Quality Control System and Palay Procurement Quality Standards and Procedures by Bella Tena of NFA Regional Officer; DSWD accreditation by Myla Cruz of DSWD region 5; Administrative Services by Annielen Panerio, General Manager of CSMPC; Business Plan Preparation by Fatima Bacuno of NFA Cam. Norte; Cashiering and

Finance Services by Alexander Parrera of NFA Catanduanes; and Values Formation and Leadership by Rev. Fr. Ian Trillanes, National Organic Agriculture Board – NGO Representative.

The continuous training provided by the DA to members gave the RPC beneficiaries the needed knowledge and skills in producing quality rice, reducing postharvest losses and improving rice production in the region. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**

Prevent Fires, Protect the Home

**Kaalaman at
pagtutulungan
ng
Sambayanan,
Kaligtasan
sa Sunog ay
Makakamtan**



1. Have easy access to emergency hotline numbers
2. Eliminate fire hazard through good housekeeping
3. Keep matches out of children's reach
4. Do not keep flammable objects inside the house
5. Regularly check electrical installations. Change wires that are already damaged
6. Gas lamps and candles should be far from curtains, strong winds and highly flammable candles
7. Never leave a lit candle or cigarette unattended
8. When leaving the house or going to sleep make sure that the gas range and electric stove are turned off
9. Never leave appliances on for too long and unplug them when not in use
10. Don't leave the pan unattended when cooking.

Corn farmers capacitated via Climate Smart Field School in Bula...

BULA CAMARINES SUR. Some 35 farmer-trainees of Barangay La Purisima of this municipality completed a season long training course (16 weeks) through Farmers Field School on Corn and Corn Technology Demonstration focusing on climate change conducted by the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Local Government of Bula Cam. Sur. The graduation ceremony was held on March 9, 2016.

Annie Lumanog, agricultural technician (AT) and municipal corn coordinator together with Reynato A. Esteve, AT also served as facilitators of the FFS.

The Farmers Field School (FFS) is a group-based learning process that has been adopted by national government organizations, national and international agencies to promote good agricultural practices particularly on Integrated Pest Management. The FFS module being adopted now by the DA-ATI incorporates

topics on Climate Change. The farmers are taught the ecological processes that affect the production of their crops and animals. The main learning tool is their cropping field.

Mercy Caigoy, a barangay official and one of the participants, expressed her enthusiasm to engage more on corn farming as she experienced the positive impact of this agricultural undertaking and the support of the DA.

Present during the occasion were: Engr. Danilo Aman, DA-5 Focal person on Cassava and Corn program staff; Felix Bermido, Barangay Captain; Dr. Celestina Esteve, AT/OIC MAO, Diosdado Espiritu, representative, of the municipal mayor; Barangay officials, other DA-5 technical staff and agriculture extension workers. Diosdado Espiritu, mayor's representative delivered a message of gratitude and appreciation to those behind this laudable activity which is worth replicating. **(Blesilda A. Nuñez)**



...and in Naga City



NAGA CITY - "*Dawa ako gurang na, dai ako mapundo sa pagadal asin pag-atendir nin mga trainings sa pagtanom*" says 66-year old corn farmer Magdalena Mayano of Cararayan, Naga City. She was one of the 35 farmers who graduated from the 5-month Climate Corn Farmers Field School on February 29, 2016 at the Naga City Nursery, Pacol, Naga City.

The graduates were farmers from Barangays Pacol, Concepcion Pequeña, Concepcion Grande, Balatas, San Isidro, Cararayan and Carolina all in Naga City.

According to Engr. Menandro Calingacion, Corn Coordinator of Naga City, the graduates will receive incentives

and will be priority in the Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Income Growth (SARIG) loan programs and projects of the LGUs and the Department of Agriculture.

Under the SARIG Program, a loan of seven bags of fertilizers and a sack of certified palay seeds will be given to a rice farmer. A corn farmer will receive 10-12 bags of fertilizers only. The loan is payable per harvest with a 1% interest of the total loan. For the past 5 years, there were 100 farmers who benefitted from the loan program.

Calingacion also plans to conduct Charcoal-Making using Corn Cobs; Chicha Corn processing; and Cacao Production for

all interested corn farmers in the city.

Mayano also said that she has been into farming for more than 40 years, and it was also during her FFS that she learned about Tipid-Abono Technology; and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which she intends to adopt.

Naga City Agriculturist Edna Bongalonta, in her message,

thanked the Department of Agriculture-5 represented by Lorenzo Alvina, Regional Corn Coordinator and Aileen Babelonia for their unending support to the city's agricultural programs especially the provision of the Village-Type Dryer. Because of the increasing number of corn farmers in Naga City, their corn dryer can no longer cope with the needs of the farmers.

Alvina suggested that the mobile corn dryer of the DA be first tested in Naga City to support their existing corn dryer. He also added that DA has tied-up with the Banco Santiago de Libon to provide loans for Corn farmers. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**

Commercial malunggay production gaining ground in Cam. Sur

by Emily B. Bordado



Malunggay or Moringa is a popular backyard plant in the rural areas because it is easy to grow and propagate, fast growing and requires little attention or care. Bicolanos love to cook malunggay leaves in coconut milk along with blue crab (kasag) or mud crab (han-it) or flaked young shark or mantra ray (Kinunot na pating o pagi) or as garnishing to chicken stew (tinola). Malunggay leaves then were not sold commercially. They used to be generously shared among neighbors or can be freely accessed from public lots or farm boundaries or hedges where they grow abundantly.

Little did the rural folk know then that this backyard plant contains a powerhouse of important nutrients and is one of the most important multi-function plants in the world. Moringa, is more than a leafy vegetable or a culinary add-on. It is nutrient-rich with outstanding health-enhancing and therapeutic properties. All parts of the

tree have valuable uses and application that is why it is often referred to as the "miracle plant". Moreover, malunggay can generate tremendous impact on local and international markets and can make Philippines globally competitive in several ways.

Cognizant of the commercial and health value of malunggay, a very young company registered as Mauswag Agribusiness Incorporated (MAI) has ventured into the production and processing of malunggay. Owned and managed by Vimildo A. Avanceña of Milaor, Camarines Sur the company which started operating only a year ago envisions to produce high grade quality, state of the art processed Moringa Oleifera "Malunggay" products under the brand name "B & W: Mountain Grown Moringa". Vimildo or "Bong" as he wants to be called with his company bought a 10-hectare upland lot along the slopes of Mt. Isarog in Barangay Curry, Pili. To date seven hectares of the area has been planted

(Next page pls.)



with moringa. Of these, four hectares have been fully planted and already harvestable. The remaining three have been newly replanted because the plants were damaged by typhoon late last year.

He hired Ely Tud a retired agriculturist and nursery expert from the DA to assist him in the production aspect of the moringa. They divided the land into 20 plots each plot measuring 50 x 50. There are

has also bought a drone which monitors and records the activities in the field.

Bong who is an Information Technology (IT) expert and has worked abroad for 10 years as IT manager has put his passion into his new occupation. He puts to use his knowledge and skills in IT as he makes analysis, calculations and projections using the data based on the information he has generated in a scientific manner. And he is very eager to learn the



divider so that the unwanted insects and leaves would not go with the cleaned leaves but would remain afloat in the other half of the sink. This is one example of what Bong was saying as the product of "Imagineering", looking through problems and formulating the simplest solution. And this he did to solve all the critical requirements to have a well define plantation and state of the art processing facility.

His stint working abroad has made him conscious and attuned to peculiarities and demands of the global market. He is aware for example, that foreign consumers would want the moringa powder to retain its color sans the browning or burnt color. He does not therefore use heat or solar energy to dry the moringa leaves. Instead he practices air handling process. He further explained that through this method the enzymes of the leaves are

not destroyed, hence its nutritional properties are also retained.

At present he has about 10 personnel in his employ and during harvest he has about 10 more on call laborers coming from the neighboring barangays. Processing has not gone full blast as they are making the necessary preparations. They are putting in place the necessary requirements to be compliant with global standards and to obtain the third party Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification then eventually the Good Manufacturing Practice Certification.

It is heartening to know that right here in Bicol a commercial production of moringa is now gaining ground and state-of-the art processing for local and global market is in the offing. Thanks to Mauswag Agribusiness Inc (MAI) which puts its stake in this very promising industry.



about 2,3000 trees per plot. Newly planted seeds are fertilized with decomposed rice hull and chicken dung. They harvest every 15 days - reaping about ½ kg leaves from each tree. Only the older leaves are harvested leaving the younger leaves for the next cycle.

They maintain a nursery where they grow and stock their seedlings or planting materials. There are currently 15,000 seedlings. For 2 weeks the seedlings are placed under the shaded part of the nursery then these are transferred to the unshaded part nursery for 1 month to acclimatize them prior to transplanting. One month after planting the seedling harvesting could commence. A nearby creek is their source of water and they have set up an overhead rotating sprinkler to water the malunggay plants. Bong

ropes. Although he is not an engineer by profession he is a keen observer and a critical thinker. Faced with the limitations of the equipment and machines that are available in the market, he designed and fabricate his own processing tools and equipment with the help of Bert Morales, one of his hired staff who has extensive training and experience as fabricator in Japan.

Having observed that after washing the bundled leaves in the stainless sink some insects and unwanted yellow leaves would still stick to the leaves when they are lifted from the water, this was a challenge that needs a practical solution. the solution is simple: installed a stainless divider in the middle of the sink and let the washed leaves pass through the bottom of the



Constantly racing to excel in his every endeavor

Engr. Raul T. Carreras 2016 Regional Gawad Saka Outstanding Corn Farmer

by Emily B. Bordado

Raul Carreras is a Civil Engineer by profession and he started practicing his profession as a public works contractor. But soon after, he shifted interest to agriculture when he took over the management of their family farm in Tigaon and Goa, Camarines Sur.

Today, he is a very successful and progressive entrepreneur, a Magsasaka Siyentista and innovative and technology oriented and multi-awarded farmer.

In 1985, he started corn farming utilizing 10 hectares of their 20 hectare farm which was also planted to sugarcane, palay, mango, coconut, banana, pomelo and abaca. He also ventured into poultry and piggery production as feeds for these animals abound in his farm.

He diligently attended trainings and seminars organized by the DA and other institutions on corn production and agri-related topics.

Being progressive-minded and receptive to modern farming technologies, he became the first Bicolano corn farmer to try commercial production of Bt corn after the final trial testing on his farm.

In 2004 he was 1st runner up in the national search of Monsanto Philippines for Bigatin Corn farmer. On the same year, he was also awarded as Outstanding Sugarcane Farmer in the DA national Gawad Saka. In 2007, he was national finalist to the DA Gawad Saka corn-based farming category.



He has also tried organic farming as he believes that conventional and organic agriculture could co-exist.

Applying what he had learned and what he had read, he used farm wastes such as corn husks, tassels and stalks as organic fertilizer by decomposing them and mixing them with organic matters such as chicken and hog manure and rice hull. A portion of the farm serves as composting area where chicken dungs are mixed with carbonized rice hull, rock phosphate and compost to serve as an effective fertilizer for corn plants after six months of decomposition.

To prevent aflatoxin in corn, he practices proper corn drying using mechanical and solar dryers and proper storage of corn. His mechanical dryer has a capacity of 200 cavans per drying. He also uses varieties which are resistant to pest and diseases.

His farm is climate proof as he constructed canals around it to control flooding and he has water pumps ready in case of severe drought.

His science-based approach to farming was recognized by the Bicol Consortium for Agriculture Resources Research and Development (BCARRD) and he was appointed as Magsasaka Siyentista. He made his farm available as laboratory for students and researchers from nearby.

He became a most sought after resource person to many trainings of the DA and other institutions.

In 2010, he was adjudged 2nd placer as National Most Outstanding Magsasaka Siyentista by PCARRD.

A versatile and dynamic farmer entrepreneur, Engineer Carreras has been a key player in the corn industry of Bicol for 29 years now. Guided by the hindsight and foresight and

analytical mind he takes into account the supply chain in his enterprises.

His venture on corn production and commercial trading of this crop is anchored on his need to support the 16,992 heads of poultry and 20-sow level swine breeding farm, including other cattle stocks. He takes into account that yellow corn accounts for about 40% of chicken and hog feeds. He mixes his own layer mash for the poultry as well as feeds for the hogs, thus he saves P6.00 in every kilo of feeds.

But other than contributing to the growth of the corn, poultry and swine industry and in the agriculture sector in general, Engr. Carreras is helping generate employment by utilizing local labor in his diverse farm activities.

He is also a leader and effective networker. He has established linkage with various government agencies aside from the DA, academic institutions, NGOs, seed and chemical companies and other agri-corporations.

He has been chairperson of the Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council of Tigaon; incumbent chairman of the Pensumil Mill District Development Foundation Inc.; and one of the Board of Directors of Tigaon Dairy Farmers' Cooperative.

He is also active in civic and religious affairs having served as president of Petrus Social Action Foundation, Parish Pastoral Council and as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus of St. Peter Baptist Parish to date. He is a devoted family man to his wife and four children.

Raul Carreras lives up to the meaning or numerology of his name: Raul which means strong and excellent in analyzing, understanding and learning; and Carreras which means always running chasing his dreams and career. He is simply unstoppable in learning new technologies and best practices. No wonder he continues to reap success.



Respiratory disease investigation and lung scoring workshop – a first in Bicol

More than 35 agricultural technicians, livestock and meat inspectors, veterinarians from Albay including five Australians from the University of Queensland participated in the first-ever Training-Workshop on Disease Investigation and Lung Scoring with a focus on Respiratory Diseases in Swine held recently in Legazpi City with actual field demonstrations at the Ligao City Slaughterhouse and two swine farms in Daraga, Albay.

This three-day activity will enhance the field and laboratory capacity of the Bicol Region which is part of the Phase 2 project entitled “Improving the Production and Competitiveness of Australian and Philippines pig production through better health and disease control (AH/2012/066)”.

This project is being undertaken by Australian Center for International Agriculture Research-Philippine Council for Agriculture and Aquatic



Resources Research and Development (ACIAR-PCAARRD) in the Bicol Region, specifically the Albay province. Then, it will be cascaded to the other five remaining provinces.

Moreover, this project will conduct consultation with swine raisers to link them to the laboratory services of the Department of Agriculture. At present, there are only two existing animal laboratories in Cabangan, Camalig, Albay and in Sorsogon.

Topics discussed include swine raising and the roles of the technicians and inspectors in their municipality; biosecurity; swine respiratory diseases; sample collection,

processing and storage; lung scoring with hands-on demonstration at the Ligao City Slaughterhouse; Actual Necropsy Procedure; and actual Disease Investigation on Commercial and Smallholder Swine Farms in Barangays Kilicao and Malabog, Daraga, Albay.

Speakers include Veterinarians Nemesio Rabacal (AlbayProVet Services); John Paul Serrano (LGU-Bacacay); Ma. Linda Tabinas and Rona

P. Bernales (Regional Animal Diagnostic and Disease Laboratory-5); Kit Parke and Tamsin Barnes (University of Queensland); Paul John Alvaran (ACIAR-PCAARRD); Milagros Mananggit (RADDL-Region 3); and ACIAR-PCAARRD Project Economist Tessa Lantican.

Albay Livestock Inspector Ralph Ibieta said that this training-workshop equipped him with skills on on-farm disease investigation, post-mortem examinations, necropsy and lung scoring which is vital in the identification of respiratory diseases.

Dr. Parke encouraged the participants to practice their learnings and to work together with other municipalities to benefit the local swine industry. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**



March is Rabies Awareness Month

“End Rabies, Now Na.”



Albay holds Garlic harvest festival

PIO DURAN, ALBAY---Santos Palma is one of the 32 farmers in the municipality of Pioduran in Albay engaged in garlic production. And his planting materials were provided by the Department of Agriculture-5 after the Training on Garlic Production held last November in Buang, Tabaco City.

With an area of only a quarter-of-a-hectare in Barangay Malapay, Palma was able to produce 1000 kgs of garlic. This was aside from the 27 kgs of garlic harvested during the Garlic Harvest Festival held on February 26, 2016 with more than 50 farmers including participants to the Farmer Field School (FFS) on Organic Farming from the province of Sorsogon. The harvested garlic were sorted and sold in the BFT-ARCOMP.

According to Barangay Councilor on Agriculture Merlyn Medina, with the opening of the Barangay Food Terminal (BFT) through the Malapay Agrarian Reform Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative (ARCMPC), 64 farmer-members are now enjoying good profits from their produce. Aside from garlic, the farmers would bring in ginger, string beans, tomatoes, papaya, eggplant, camote, squash, soya beans, rice, corn, cassava and

monggo to the BFT.

Medina also added that the farmers in Malapay participated in the FFS on Upland Farming, Farm-Business School and FFS on IPM which cover the sitios of Coyaoyao, Matanag, Malapay, Murok-Burokan and Mabatag.

With these trainings and BFT, Medina concluded that farmers in her barangay are progressive and updated in terms of new farming techniques.

Barangay Malapay has a total of 60 hectares devoted to garlic production aside from rice, corn and vegetables.

Although Palma's garlic were considered small in size due to the effect of the Typhoon Nona which brought excessive rainwater, Palma still gained some profits.

Retired Agricultural Technician Rene Sanorjo disclosed that garlic will thrive well in an area where monggo is planted.



In one garlic clove, a farmer can have 10 planting materials. In a hectare, one can have a net income of 200,000.00 pesos, he added.

Sanorjo advised the farmers interested in garlic farming to start stacking rice straws (dayami) which is a practical mulching material for garlic.

Thus, First-timer FFS participant of Prieto Diaz Rafael Borjal is encouraged to venture into garlic production in one area of his 10-hectare farm. He will be using the Ilocos White and Batangas Purple varieties which are also the varieties being used by the farmers in Pioduran.

"Kun ano an namamataan mo, namamataan man kan tanom. Kun namomotan mo an tanom, kamomotan ka man kan saimong tanom." Sanorjo quipped as he closed his lecture on garlic production. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**

FAO team visit GSR demo sites in Cam Sur

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) and the Disaster Preparedness Management of the European Aid and Civil Protection Department (DIPECHO II) project, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture introduced the Green Super Rice lines for variety trial to farmer-beneficiaries selected by Local Government Units (LGUs) in 2013 through their Agriculture Extension Workers to help Bicol farmers increase their productivity yield despite challenging weather conditions. As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities of the project, the FAO-DIPECHO implementers together with the technical staff of the Department of Agriculture Region 5 conducted field visits on January 20, 2015 to areas in Camarines Sur where Green Super Rice lines were adapted.

The activity aimed to assess the performances of various GSR lines and to identify which lines are most adaptable.

Through this strategy, farmers were able to compare the stress tolerant seeds from traditional varieties. According to Isagani Pineda, FAO representative, the Philippines is ahead from other Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Laos, Democratic People's Republic of Korea) in terms of good agricultural practice using Green Super Rice as an option to disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The Team composed of: Dir. Christopher Morales, Xerxes Remorozo, Engr. Zaida Manglicmot, DA central office; Anne-Marie Renner, ECHO Desk officer for the Philippines; DR. Robert Sandoval Jr., Engr. Riza Espinido, Isagani Pineda, FAO Philippines; Lorenzo Alvina and Salvadora Gavino of DA-5.

The group visited a one-hectare demo farm at San Nicolas Canaman Camarines Sur owned by farmer-adaptor Leonardo Canaveral. Canaveral, who is also the Barangay Captain has been adapting GSR



8 for three cropping seasons. Another farmer, Gilbert Tan adapted the same GSR line to his 2 hectares riceland. Both shared the same story on the amazing results of the GSR which has proven its resiliency on disaster such as flood (saline intrusion) and drought. A three-hectare model farm owned by Nicomedes Francisco Luz at Del Pilar San Fernando Camarines Sur was also visited. MAO Roberto Asico said GSR 1, 5 and 8 manifested ability to recover from adverse effects of climate change. For the previous cropping, some farmers were able to harvest 5.4 metric tons per hectare despite damages caused by typhoon Nona. **(Blesilda Nunez)**

4 Bicolano young farmers learn Japanese farm technology

"First time ko mag-attend ng training and in Japan pa! Di ako makapaniwala!" recalled 26-year old young farmer Arvin Jay L. Adajar from Tigaon, Camarines Sur when he set foot at the NAIA International Airport for the first time.

Adajar was one of the 17 young farmers all over the Philippines who participated in the 10-month Young Filipino Farmers Training Program in Japan (YFFTPJ) sponsored by the Department of Agriculture (DA), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Japan Agricultural

Exchange Commission (JAEC) from April 2015-February 25, 2016.

This program is geared towards developing young Filipino farmers to become farmer-leaders and agricultural entrepreneurs.

The other Bicolano trainees were Joey Caloooy Hade of Goa 4H Club; Reymon A. Luzande of Milagros 4H Club in Castilla, Masbate; and Romnick A. Navarro of Manguisoc 4H Club in Mercedes, Camarines Norte. Adajar is a member Mabalodbalod Young Farmer Association.

These young farmers were assigned

in different farms located in different prefectures. Hade was assigned in a vegetable farm in Kochi; Luzande and Adajar in a rice-vegetable farm in Saitama; and Navarro in a swine farm in Tochigi, Japan.

Adajar and Luzande were assigned in a small bean farm but considered the busiest farm in Saitama prefecture. They would wake up at 5:00 in the morning to sort and clean the fresh soybeans (Edamame) harvested a day before. Then at 1:00 in the afternoon, the branches that were removed will be dumped in a compost pit called taihee. At 3:00 in the afternoon, they would again harvest the soybeans. Around 5:00 in the afternoon, they would haul the soybeans in a truck to be delivered to their work area and dampen them with fresh water. They normally would be home around 9:00 in the evening. The sorted and clean soybeans will be delivered to a

cooperative that processes and delivers the product to the market.

Aside from soybeans, the farm also plants komatsu (pechay) and kome (rice). He also added that in winter time from December to February, they would plant chinese cabbage, spinach and two kinds of radish. During summer time around June to August, they would plant tomatoes, squash, hot pepper, eggplant and sunflower.

According to Adajar the long hours of work taught him to value time and the importance of hardwork to gain profits in the farm. Although there was no new technology introduced during their training, he said that the farming activity was a family endeavour. The foster grandfather manages the rice fields while his foster mother assists them in the bean farm. The farm owner Yasuhiro Hosoda manages the bean farm and the marketing of all the produce.

The young farmers underwent a 75-day Pre-Department Orientation (PDO) Course and Training on Japanese Language and culture, Farming practices on rice, vegetable, livestock and farm machineries, and a 45-day homestay in Zambales and Nueva Ecija.

For this year, 4Hers Gene A. Omerez, Jr. and Henry I. De Roma from Basud, Camarines Norte, and Aljho E. Mendoza from Barcelona, Sorsogon will be participating in same program.

"Enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience and blessing" shares Adajar to all the upcoming trainees. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**



Magtanim ng HYBRID CORN

**Ang 16 kilo binhi sa 1 ektarya
ay aani ng 8-10 tonelada
sa loob ng 105-110 araw!**

- ☒ **Malaki ang kita**
- ☒ **Higit sa 40% ang dagdag sa ani**
- ☒ **Mas malalaki at maganda ang hugis ng bunga.**
- ☒ **Maresistensiya sa hangin, ulan at tagtuyot**
- ☒ **May panlaban sa corn borer at rotworm**

Masaganang Kabuhayan, Malusog na Katawan, nasa Maisan!



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Office No. 5**



**Gumamit ng
CERTIFIED SEEDS**

- ☒ **Sigurado ang 10% dagdag sa ani dahil malulusog ang binhi, pantay at mabilis ang paglaki ng punla**
- ☒ **Ang Certified Seeds ay mula sa magandang uri ng binhi na produkto ng accredited seed growers**

Farmers, fisherfolk to benefit from over P1B rural development projects

Bicol region will soon harvest the seeds of progress sown by Bicol's "best among the best planners" in terms of agriculture and fisheries development. At the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) Joint PPMIU-RPCO Year-End Assessment and CY 2016 Planning Workshop held on January 19-22, 2016 at La Venezia Hotel in Legazpi City, Department of Agriculture Region V Regional Technical Director and PRDP Deputy Project Director Dr. Elena B. delos Santos lauded the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Units (PPMIU) calling them "best among the best" as she announced that Bicol received over one billion worth of sub-projects since its inception in Bicol in 2014.

"For only about two years, we were able to get for our constituents more than one billion pesos in terms of sub-projects," delos Santos said.

Over P1.1 billion-worth of these are infrastructure development projects while over P91M are business enterprises. These sub-projects are expected to raise the annual real farm incomes of PRDP household beneficiaries by at least 5 percent, increase the value of annual marketed output by 7 percent, and boost the number of farmers & fishers with improved access to DA services by 20 percent.

In just two years, PRDP has signed memoranda of agreement with five of the provinces in the region except Masbate, which is undertaking finalization. Value chain analysis (VCA) for three priority commodities were already issued with No Objection Letter namely geonets for Albay and Camarines Norte, coco sap sugar for Camarines Sur and abaca for Catanduanes.

Meanwhile, VCAs for eight other priority commodities of the six provinces and Naga City in the region are awaiting approval.

VCA is a science-based tool adopted by PRDP to identify market opportunities that can promote growth, determine constraints to the industry's progress, describe interfirm relations' nature and justify basis for project interventions. It serves as the basis in formulating Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP) a three-year strategic plan crafted by the Department of Agriculture and the provincial local government units (PLGUs). PCIP rationalizes the interventions and sub-projects for PRDP funding within the various segments of the commodity value chain. The six provinces in the region are currently updating their PCIPs while Naga City is finalizing its PCIP for pili.

Bicol region also got the lion's share of the PRDP South Luzon's budget for infrastructure development with 31 pipelined sub-projects worth a total of P3,084,429,944. Twenty six of these are farm-to-market roads (FMRs) while five are civil works in support to the enterprise under Investments in Rural Enterprises and Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity (I-REAP). Bicol has three on-going infrastructure development sub-projects namely the P196M-worth Concreting of Pistola-Tablon FMR in Oas, Albay, the Rehabilitation/Upgrading of San Isidro-Pag Oring Nuevo FMR in Libmanan, Camarines Sur and the Upgrading of Cuco-Bagong Silang FMR in Pasacao, Camarines Sur, which cost an aggregate amount of P94.8M.

Three enterprise development sub-projects in



Bicol will also benefit from PRDP funding. These are the P5.7M-worth Albay Coco Geonets Manufacturing Project in Libon, Albay, the Coco Geonets Production Project in Santa Elena, Camarines Norte, which costs P4.2M, and the P4.8M-worth Camarines Sur Coco Sap Sugar Processing. These sub-projects are projected to impact the lives of farmer-members of Tunay Tapat Lahing Pilipino Cooperative in Albay, Samahang Organic/Fair Trade Coconut Farmers Bicol-Quezon in Camarines Norte and Federation of Baao Women Multi-purpose Cooperative in Baao, Camarines Sur.

PRDP Project Support Office South Luzon Director Shandy M. Hubilla congratulated the region's PRDP staff and provincial

Department of Agriculture Region V Regional Technical Director and PRDP Deputy Project Director Dr. Elena B. delos Santos expresses her gratitude to the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Units (PPMIUs) calling them "best among the best" in terms of agri-fishery development. Delos Santos announced that Bicol received over one billion worth of PRDP-funded sub-projects in just two years of implementation.

partners for their satisfactory work performance. He then challenged them to do better in 2016 particularly that World Bank, the project's funding agency, will now assess the implementation of enterprise development sub-projects on the ground. **(Annielyn L. Baleza)**



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