

Agri chief turns over solar irrigation project and other assistance to Bicol

by Emily B. Bordado

LIBMANAN, CAMARINES SUR - Agriculture secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol turned over to the Bagadion Organic Farmers Association the recently completed P5 million worth Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) and other assistance and interventions totaling to P11.3 million to other farmers associations and

LGUs in the second district of this province. This include farm machineries, equipment, hauling truck, seeds, fertilizers chicken, and garden tools.

The secretary was accompanied by undersecretary for Fisheries Eduardo B. Gongona who also distributed motorized bancas, fingerlings and other fishing paraphernalia.



He was welcomed and joined by Luis Raymond F. Villafuerte 2nd Congressional district representative; Atty. Marvel C. Clavecilla, Presidential Adviser for Bicol Affairs; Dr. Elena B. de los Santos, DA regional executive director; Dr. Edgar R. Madrid and Rodel P. Tornilla,

Regional Technical Directors and other DA officials.

Despite the short notice some 1,000 farmers, fisherfolk, mayors and other elected officials, DA officials, heads of DA attached agencies and officials of the agriculture

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Sec. Piñol rallies local chief execs to do their part in ensuring food security

by Emily B. Bordado

PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA - "We do not lack food, our problem is positioning and distribution." This was the assertion made by Agriculture Secretary, Manuel F. Piñol as he addressed the over 500 municipal/city mayors and municipal agriculturists

and agricultural officers and stakeholders from South Luzon Cluster for the Food Security Summit over the week at a convention center in this city.

According to Secretary Piñol, the gathering which was the second of a series nationwide was more of an

encounter, an engagement of the local chief executives, and other stakeholders who play a vital role in ensuring food security not only for the their respective local government units but the entire nation as well. The main objective of the summit was to rally the local

chief executives to also do their part in ensuring food security for their constituents as aptly spelled out in the summit theme or hash tag: "Mamamayan ko, Pakakinin ko."

The secretary took the opportunity to present the initiatives and intervention being done by the DA under his watch such as the Crop

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Solar irrigation, the best option for small production areas

Irrigation system is often implemented in rural areas with poor access to reliable electricity or fossil fuel. But solar radiation is an abundant resource in the countryside. Solar energy is thus, one of the easiest ways and accessible resources farmers can use to produce energy and make water accessible in their areas. One of the areas in agriculture that benefits the most from solar energy is irrigation, especially in far flung areas not reached by large irrigation systems powered either by electricity or fossil energy. Therefore, the use of solar energy in agriculture is becoming increasingly popular and considered the logical solution for sustained farm productivity.

Upon his assumption as secretary of Agriculture, Emmanuel F. Pinol has considered solar irrigation system as the best option in areas where big irrigation systems cannot be feasible. He explains that aside from the fact that it is not expensive to maintain because it is not dependent on gasoline diesel or electric power it is also very practical.

The Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) has become his pet project. The first and biggest solar powered water irrigation system

in the country was inaugurated last year in Llanera, Nueva Ecija. Five of these SPIS have been completed in the Bicol region and five more are under construction. During his recent visit to Camarines Sur he committed 10 more to be constructed in the province.

Costing only P5 million to P7 million the SPIS can irrigate 20 to 50 hectares of rice field. This system integrates and harmonizes the different components from pump to plant. Its operating principle is simple. A solar generator provides electricity or power for an electric motor pump, which delivers water either directly into an irrigation system or to an elevated reservoir. Fundamental design criteria for SPIS include minimum maintenance, maximum reliability as well as resource efficiency.

With the forecast of a possible occurrence of mild El Niño for the 2nd quarter of 2019, the establishment of more SPIS especially in those areas where water will be really scarce can be a mitigating factor. As we know the crops need more water when the sun shines a lot. On one hand with a lot of sunlight a large quantity of energy will also be available to run or operate the irrigation system.

But equally important to this project is the strengthening and capacitation of farmers organization who will be operating and maintaining these projects. They should not only be trained on the proper maintenance of the irrigation facilities. They should also be trained on financial management of their organizations so that they can turn this irrigation system into a highly efficient and sustainable irrigation method.



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Cam. Sur coco sap sugar processing center completed ahead of schedule

BAAO, CAMARINES SUR – Considered as a better substitute for synthetic sugars, coconut sap sugar is gaining popularity in both local and international markets because of its low glycemic index.

Results of the value chain analysis for coconut sap sugar showed its potential in Camarines Sur because of the product's definite market. Its proximity to Manila and competitive sap based pricing strategy also makes Camarines Sur a better source of coconut sap sugar than those from Mindanao.

The 141-square meter Camarines Sur Coconut Sap Sugar Processing Center, which is part of the P7.64 million-worth Camarines Sur Coco Sap Sugar Processing Enterprise, funded under the Department



Gemma Daguman (right), general manager of the Federation of Baa Women (FBW) Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC), pose for a photo outside the Camarines Sur Coconut Sap Sugar Processing Center in Brgy. San Vicente Baa, Camarines Sur

of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) will soon start its operation to produce quality and healthy coconut sap sugar with an average production of 76.5 tons per year.

The Federation of Baa Women (FBW) Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC), the proponent group, will implement the subproject. According to Gemma Daguman, its general manager, the completion of the Camarines Sur Coconut Sap Sugar Processing Center will positively impact the quality of lives of coconut farmers and rural women in Baa, Camarines Sur.

"I am very happy kasi at last, three years na kaming naghintay ng project na ito. This time, maitu-turn over na sa amin na completed ang Coco Sap Processing Center project," she said.

Currently, the cooperative has 180 members engaged in agricultural production and processing who receive various assistance and will be tapped for the enterprise development (I-REAP) subproject. The processing center will employ a Project Manager who will supervise the enterprise's Operations and Administration Unit. A cashier and driver will likewise be hired on a monthly basis under the Administration Unit. Meanwhile, women members of the FBW MPC will be hired under the Operations Unit. They will be trained on the various processes of coconut sap sugar. FBW will organize three groups with 27 women members who will work in shifting schedule as direct labors.

"Mga housewives po sila sa ngayon pero mai-involve na po sila sa pag-process ng coco sap sugar. Magkakaroon na sila ng extra income and mapi-permanent na sila sa work nila na hindi na sa bahay lang sila gumagawa," Daguman said.

Coco sap collectors and syrup processors are projected to have an additional monthly income worth P2,500.00 to P7,000.00. Also, FBW
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Letters

Naga City North District Irrigators Association, Inc.
(NACINDIRA, INC.)
Km 9, Pacol, Naga City

December 28, 2018

Dr. Elena B. de los Santos
Regional Executive Director
DA RFO 5

Madam,

We, the Naga City North District Irrigators Association, Inc. (NACINDIRA, Inc.) is a duly registered farmer-irrigators association with SEC Registration No. CN201431590 dated August 12, 2014 and NWRB Permit No. 015681.

The association with the initiative of the majority of the Board Members are extending our wholehearted thanks to your good office for approving and releasing our acquisition of (1) unit Combine Harvester, released to us last May 24, 2018. And also the release of our requested vegetable seeds distributed to our farmer members.

Our farmer members are benefiting from this unit for fast and efficient harvesting, and the association is also generating added income from the operation of this unit.

We are hoping that you will give your support for the improvement of production and postharvest operation of the association that will further benefit our farmer members.

Truly yours,

(Signed) Amado B. Bo
Chairman



The Hall of Fame award for LGU Calabanga, Cam. Sur was received by Mayor Eduardo A. Severo (5th from left). Municipal Agriculturist Gil Gabrielle H. Bordado III also received the Hall of Fame award as Outstanding MA.



Ligao City was received by Mayor Patricia G. Alsua and City Agriculturist Eng. Dexter G. Mendoza.

Top performing implementers of corn and cassava programs accorded awards

BUHANGIN, DAVAO CITY – Some 2,000 delegates from all over the country gathered in an inland resort of this city for the four-in-one event : the 14th Philippine National Corn Congress, the awarding ceremonies for the 6th National Quality Corn Achievers Awards(NQCAA), the 2nd Cassava Cluster Management Excellence Award (CCMEA) and the 2nd Cornucopia Awards.

The corn congress is an annual activity which serves as the venue for the various stakeholders of the corn industry to gather and discuss the current issues of the sector, share the best farm practices, showcase modern farm equipment, technologies and forge market linkages. It is highlighted with the conferment of the NQCAA, CCMEA and CORNUCOPIA to recognize the achievements of top performing Local Government Units and stakeholders in producing quality corn and cassava in support to the development of corn and cassava industry and the animal feed industry.

For the NQCAA, 5 top

performing provinces were awarded with cash (project grant) of P5M and trophy along with their respective provincial agriculturists and corn coordinators who also received a trophy and cash prize. Twenty five (25) municipalities and cities along with 21 municipal and city agriculturists and 16 corn coordinators were also awarded with cash prize and trophy. This year a total of 90 agricultural extension workers (AEW) were likewise accorded awards and recognition.

Three LGUs from the Bicol region qualified for the national awards. These are the LGUs of Calabanga, Iriga City and Ligao City along with their respective Municipal/ City agriculturist and corn technician or AEW. A cash grant of P1M and trophy were given

to Iriga City and Ligao City. The LGU of Calabanga, Cam. Sur which had been a national winner for three consecutive years was accorded the Hall of Fame Award and was given a special trophy and a cash grant of P2M which was received by Mayor Eduardo A. Severo. Correspondingly, Calabanga's Mun. Agriculturist Gil Gabriel H. Bordado III and AEW Joshua T. Ipo were accorded the Hall of Fame Award and given a special trophy and cash prize of P45,000. The trophy and cash prize for Ligao City was received by Mayor Patricia G. Alsua and City Agriculturist Eng. Dexter G. Mendoza. The award for Iriga City was received by City Agriculturist Ruben S. De los Santos in behalf of Mayor Madeline A. Gazmin.

Nine other AEWs from Bicol made it to the national award. They are: Noel G. Manaog and Buster Ibarbia of Buhi; Ryan F. Calatrava and Carlos B. Azanes of Calabanga; Marly L. Corporal and Honesto C. Sirios Jr. of Iriga City; Hector Llagas of Bato, Cam, Sur; Victor B. Cortes of Baao; and Mary Jane Alivcante of Cataingan, Masbate. They each received a trophy and cash prize of P16,000.

DA regional Executive Director Dr. Elena B. De los Santos along with OIC, Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension, Rodel Tornilla, Lorenzo Alvina, Regional Corn Coordinator and Dr. Mary Grace Rodriguez also joined the Bicol winners in receiving their awards.

(Next page pls.)



Bicol region bagged 4 prestigious awards in national Organic Agri search

CEBU CITY – The Bicol Region bagged four (4) out of the nine (9) National Organic Agriculture Achievers Awards during the 15th National Organic Agriculture Congress held on November 13-15, 2018 at the Waterfront Hotel this city. Agriculture Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanán and National Organic Agriculture Focal Person Engr. Christopher Morales led the awarding ceremony.

The province of Albay received P3 Million project grant as National Outstanding Province implementing Organic Agriculture (OA) program. Governor Al Francis Bichara together with Provincial Agriculturist Cheryl Rebata, DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Elena B. de los Santos, OIC RTD Rodel P. Tornilla and Adelina A. Losa, Regional OA focal person, received the trophy and P3 Million check. The province garnered the highest award as it has successfully implemented the Family Based Food Production Program (AFBPPP) actively participated in by 100 households in each barangay of Albay. Eleanor Daep, Albay provincial Organic Agriculture Program focal person also



The national awardees proudly hold their trophies and facsimile checks.

bagged the award for the National Outstanding OA Focal Person and received P50,000 cash award and trophy.

Joey Hade, 25 years old, from Goa, Cam. Sur received P100,000 cash and trophy as national outstanding Young OA Farmer. The Goa Agri Producers and Processors Association (GAPPA) was adjudged as national outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmers' Group and received P500,000 cash award and trophy. GAPPA is the prime mover of organic farming system and the leading consolidator and distributor of organic produce of small

holder group of farmers in the municipality of Goa, Camarines Sur.

The national finalists were also honored during the ceremony. Five shortlisted national finalists from Bicol Region also received trophies. They are: Ligao City – national finalist for Outstanding City category; Arlene Dayo, municipal OA focal person of Goa, Camarines Sur – national finalist for Outstanding Mun./ City OA Focal Person; Felix Gino Murillo of Ligao City – national finalist for Agricultural Extension Worker category; Rossini Obligacion – national

finalist for Small Farmer Individual Category; and Edilberto Abad and family of Goa, Cam. Sur – national finalist for Organic Farming Family.

All the national finalists and major awardees were accompanied on stage by RED Ellen de los Santos, RTD Tornilla, and Adelina A. Losa. The Bicol Region is composed of over 75 delegates.

The OA congress depicted the theme “Organic Agriculture: Advancing the Local Food Culture Movement in the Philippines.” (**Lovella P. Guarin**)

Top performing implementers of corn ... (from page 4)

Meanwhile, the Cornucopia Award which is now on its 2nd year is being given to provide incentives and recognize the ingenuity and resourcefulness of organizations in implementing value adding on corn and cassava primary products. Three farmers organizations from Zamboanga del Sur, Calamba, Laguna and Misamis Oriental were conferred this award.

For the Cassava Cluster Management Award which recognizes the contributions

of cassava clusters to the advancement of the cassava industry, three cluster organizations were also given awards one from Manolo Fortich Bukidnon, one from Banga, South Cotabato and another one from Carigara, Leyte.

The guest of honor and keynote speaker during the awarding ceremonies was Senator Cynthia A. Villar who is currently the chairperson Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food. Among the legislations she already

proposed she mentioned the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund and the Rice Ratification Bill which will be a big help to the farmers. She also assured her continuous pursuit of legislations and push for government interventions such as shared facilities program, access to credit, training through farmers school, mechanization and promotion of new technologies.

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol who was not able to attend due to a conflict in schedule was

represented by Eng. Ariel T. Cayanán, DA undersecretary for Operations and Agri-Fisheries and mechanization. He underscored the vital role of the LGUs being at the forefront in the implementation of agricultural programs. He said “LGUs provide the basic infrastructures that support and cater to the needs of the communities in their respective areas and they play a critical role in monitoring the various development programs in their respective areas.” (**Emily B. Bordado**)

Regional Achievers Awarding Ceremonies 2018

Corn Achievers

NAGA CITY – The Department of Agriculture in Bicol feted this year's achievers in the development of the corn and cassava industry sectors, giving out a total of cash prizes of P480,000 and plaques of recognition during the Regional Corn Congress 2018 and Awarding of Regional Quality Corn and Cassava Cluster Organization Achievers.

Undersecretary Evelyn G. Laviña of DA High Value Crops and Rural Credit, and Dr. Candido B. Damo, national corn and cassava program coordinator conferred the awards to 24 awardees who were elegantly attired in their barong tagalog and filipiniana.

Dr. Candido B. Damo, national corn and cassava

program coordinator urged the awardees to continue improving in doing their functions in their respective areas. "Ang awards

ay hindi kabayaran, kundi konting token lang to thank you for your efforts.

The Corn Quality

Achievers awardees were composed of municipal/city Local Government Units; mun/city agriculturists; agricultural extension workers; and cassava cluster. (Lovella P. Guarin)



Gawad Saka & Rural Women

NAGA CITY – In recognition of the outstanding contribution of our farmers and rural women to the growth of the agriculture sector, the DA in Bicol staged the annual awarding ceremonies of the achievers in this year's Gawad Saka and Rural Women Search in one of the hotels in this City on October 10, 2018.

The DA Bicol gave a total of P780,000 in cash awards and plaques of commendation to nine (9) Gawad Saka Achievers and four (4) Outstanding Rural Women awardees.

Undersecretary Evelyn G. Laviña of DA's High Value Crops and Rural Credit and Chairperson of DA-Gender and Development (GAD) Focal System in her keynote speech, noted the big number of women awardees in the region, particularly in the Rural Women Search. She also added that aside from the feats of the Gawad Saka achievers "whose contributions to the agriculture sector are worth telling," their patience and endurance in complying with the tedious requirements and back breaking preparations for the scrap book and for the regional and national evaluation are also worthy of recognition.

The Gawad Saka Achievers are: Genaro A. Tamon of Magarao, Camarines



Sur – Outstanding Rice Farmer; Angelita A. Cerillo of Tigaon, Camarines Sur – Outstanding Corn Farmer; Pepito M. Amaranto of Daraga, Albay – Outstanding High Value Crop Farmer; Elmer S. Salazar of Tigaon, Camarines Sur – Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer; Josephine G. Artiaga of Lupi, Camarines Sur – Outstanding Small Animal Raiser; Napo RIC of Polangui, Albay – Outstanding Rural Improvement Club; MAFC Malilipot of Malilipot, Albay – Outstanding Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC); PAFC Daet of Daet, Camarines Norte – Outstanding Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) and MFARMC of Tiwi, Albay – Outstanding



Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC). The winning individual received P50,000 cash while outstanding groups received P75,000 cash and plaques.

Regional Outstanding Rural Woman is Ms. Josephine G. Artiaga of Lupi, Camarines Sur. She received P30,000 cash

award and plaque.

The assisting Agricultural Technicians received P15,000 cash award each.

During the one-day event, world class products made by the various Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs) of Bicol enrolled with the GREAT WOMEN Project 2 were also exhibited. (Lovella P. Guarin)

Organic Agri Achievers 2018

SORSOGON CITY - Some 500 organic agriculture practitioners, advocates and supporters converge in this city for the 11th Bicol Organic Agriculture Congress and Conferment of Awards for the region's Outstanding Organic Agriculture (OA) Achievers for 2018 and promising achievers held in this city on October 11-12.

The Province of Albay clinched this year's Outstanding Province in Organic Agriculture for its all-out support to the Organic Agriculture Program of the DA and for initiating and implementing its own program complementing the OA program. For this the province was awarded a cash grant worth P500,000 and a trophy which was received by Provincial Agriculturist Che Rebeta. Eleanor Daep, the province's focal person for OA was also adjudged Outstanding

Provincial Focal Person and awarded P25,000 and a trophy.

Ligao City of Albay province was also recognized as Outstanding City in Organic Agriculture and awarded a cash



The awardees from Albay province.



The awardees from Goa, Cam. Sur.

grant of P300,000 and a trophy which was received by Dexter Adalla, City Agriculturist and OA Focal Person. Rossini Obligacion, from the same city was adjudged Outstanding Small Individual Farmer and

received P50,000 and a trophy. Outstanding OA extension worker Felix Gino Morillo received P15,000 & trophy.

Meanwhile, the municipality of Goa, Cam. Sur garnered four awards. The Goa

Agri Producers and Processors Association (GAPPA) was adjudged Outstanding OA Farmers' Group with P100,000 grant and a trophy. The family of Edilberto Abad was adjudged Outstanding OA Farming
(Pls turn to page 8)

Bicol hosts 84th RIC nat'l confab

Naga City - Some 300 women leaders mostly officers of the Rural Women Club (RIC), coordinators and focal persons across the country converged in a hotel in this city for the 84th National Convention On November 27 to 29, 2018. National RIC president Cecilia B. Veluz-de Asis, who is also an incumbent councilor of this city together with city Mayor John G. Bongat and other city officials welcomed the delegates. De Asis said that the continuing existence of the RIC thought all its 84 years of existence since Maria Y. Orosa founded it, is a testimony of rural women's unwavering



commitment to uplift and empower themselves and become productive sector of our society.

Vice president Maria Leonor G. Robredo who was invited as the guest of honor and keynote speaker conveyed

her message via a video clip as she was attending an equally important engagement. She underscored the vital role of women in nation building. She said they are not just a silent minority but an important sector of our society that deserve

the support, recognition and respect of the government and all other sectors. Citing the role of women especially the RIC in agri-tourism which was the theme chosen for this year's convention, Robredo said
(Pls turn to page 11)



SAAD turns over carabaos to beneficiaries in Masbate & Sorsogon

MASBATE – If dog is man's best friend, the carabao is the small farmer's best buddy as it helps ease farm works and also helps transport farm produce through all kinds of terrain. Thus, the DA's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program granted the requests of some of the beneficiaries of the program to have their own draft animal.

As of October 30, 2018, the SAAD program in Bicol has distributed a total of 50 carabaos (native carabeifers) to 40 individual beneficiaries in the municipalities of Balud, Mandaon, Esperanza and Pio V. Corpuz all in Masbate and to 10 farmer-beneficiaries in Sorsogon.

The beneficiaries of the SAAD in Masbate were very grateful for the carabaos they received as they really need draft animals in cultivating their lands especially now that they could scarcely



Some of the beneficiaries of carabaos in Sorsogon.



Some of the beneficiaries of carabaos in Sorsogon.

afford the petroleum necessary in operating a tractor.

Most of the beneficiaries are living in remote areas which are not passable to public utility vehicles. Transporting goods from their farms to the market centers have long been a problem. With the carabao's heavy built, it can travel in all kinds of terrain and can carry their produce including their

children.

Other interventions already distributed to the beneficiaries in the provinces of Masbate, Catanduanes and Sorsogon included native goats, native pigs, native chicken, and ducks; white corn seeds and upland rice seeds with complete fertilizer; packets of vegetable seeds such as okra, pechay, bush and pole sitao and

ampalaya, organic fertilizers, drums, garden tools, plastic trays, wheelbarrows, UV treated plastic for greenhouse and HDPE pipes.

Trainings have been conducted in coordination with the banner programs to equip the beneficiaries with the necessary skills to sustain the project. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**

Regional Organic ... (from page 7)

Family and awarded P50,000 and a trophy. Joey Hade was Outstanding OA Young Farmer and awarded P30,000 cash prize and a trophy. Arlene Dayo was recognized Outstanding Municipal Focal Person and awarded a cash prize of P20,000 and a trophy.

Also recognized and given cash prize/grants and trophies were the promising OA Achievers namely: Iriga City as Most promising City; Elpedio Demaiwat, Most Promising City Focal Person; Edgar Oliva Most Promising Extension Worker; Alberto Calooy of Goa and Norma Bautista of Tigaon as Most Promising Small Individual Farmers; Quiras Family of Ligao City, Lopez Family of Tigaon, and Bagaporo Family as Most Promising Farming Families.

In her message to the awardees Mayor Sally Lee, a staunch advocate and practitioner of organic agriculture bared that she has declared Sorsogon an

Organic City. She underscored that Food Security goes hand in hand with Environment Security explaining that we cannot produce enough and safe food in an unhealthy environment.

Meanwhile, OIC RTD for Operations & Extension Rodel Tornilla stressed that "organic agriculture is not just a fad. It is actually going back to basic and reviving the traditional and local agricultural and cultural practices of our forefathers which is aptly stated in this year's theme: *"Organikong Pag-aagrikultura para sa pag-uswag kan local na kultura nin pagkakan sa Pilipinas"*

They keynote speaker was: Engr. Guillermo Saret, Jr., member. National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB). Other resource persons also shared their experiences.

A mini agri -fair showcased organic products. **(Emily B. Bordado with Blesilda Nunez)**

Retired DA 5 employees treated and honored



Nat'l Rice Awareness Month

DA Bicol celebrated the National Rice Awareness Month through a media briefing on Rice-Corn Blend



Over 25 media practitioners attended the briefing on Rice-Corn Blend which was staged by DA RAFIS in Naga City in celebration of the Rice Awareness Month in November.

During the briefing, the participants took home 2 kilos of rice-corn blend (a mixture of rice and white corn grits at 70:30 ratio) which is being sold by Arrow Multipurpose Coop in Pangniban Drive, Naga City.



Dr. Candido B. Damo, national Corn & Cassava Program coordinator (seated 2nd from right) and Dr. Felicitio M. Rodriguez, University Researcher of Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture of Agriculture, UPLB (3rd from left) graced the media briefing, together with Lorenzo L. Alvina, regional Corn Program Coordinator (right) and Rodel P. Tornilla, OIC RTD for Operations and Extension and Rice Program Coordinator.

Emily B. Bordado (standing left), Regional Information Officer facilitated the open forum.



Goa farmers received corn seed warehouse

Before the year ends, the DA Corn Program turned over to Maymatan Farmers Multipurpose Coop the P5M corn seed warehouse established at Digidgon, Goa, Cam. Sur.

Maymatan coop is composed of 470 farmers whose main livelihood are either rice, corn and cassava farming.

Coop Chairperson Felina Sanoy and former Municipal Agriculturist of Goa, expressed her gratitude to the DA for the full support given to the corn farmers of Goa.

In his message to the members of the Maymatan Multipurpose Coop, Lorenzo L. Alvina DA Bicol Corn Program coordinator, said that the warehouse is intended as storage for corn seeds particularly in times of calamities.

Alvina recalled the slump in corn price in 2017 which was caused by the farmers' individualism, "pa-isa-isa ang pagbenta ng mais ng ating magsasaka, that's why we could not chieve the required quantity by the San Miguel Corporation. Minsan pa ay basa ang mga produktong mais kaya hindi din tinatanggap ng consolidator," Alvina added.

Ngayong hindi na problema ang drying facilities, ang kailangan lang gawin nang magmamais ay magtanim at magani nang sabay-sabay upang maattain ang volume at quality na required by the buyers.

The DA earlier turned over a Village Type Drying facility worth P4.5M complete with cob dryer, mechanical corn sheller, grain dryer.

These facilities will boost corn production in Goa with current total corn area of 1,631.5 hectares.

Also present during the inauguration were Municipal Agriculturist Jerry Mercado, officers and members of Maymatan Coop, Municipal Council of Goa and representatives from the Land Bank and ACPC. (**Lovella Guarin**)



Agri chief turns over ...

(from page 1)

and fishery council and some members of the local media trooped to the site to meet the secretary and witness the event.

Secretary Piñol pointed out that in small areas where big irrigation systems cannot be feasible small irrigation systems like the solar powered irrigation is the best option. "Aside from the fact that it is not expensive to maintain because it is not dependent on gasoline, diesel or electric power it is also very practical. Kung kalian tag init at kailangan talaga ang tubig sa sakahan saka magaling at



epektibo itong solar irrigation', he shared. He added that it will give about P100 thousand additional income to farmers.

This solar irrigation worth P5million can irrigate 10 to 20 hectares of rice fields. Its storage tank has a carrying capacity of 200 cubic liters and its surface pump can discharge 33.4 liters per second. Piñol bared that in

Sec. Manny F. Piñol addresses over 1,000 farmers during his Byaheng Bukid in Libmanan, Cam. Sur before Christmas day.

Camarines Sur alone there are already four completed SPIS projects. Ten more of these projects are currently under construction. He pointed out that Bicol being proximately located to Metro Manila its agricultural development should be given priority. He promised to make Bicol one of the most progressive regions in the country.

He committed to set more solar irrigation projects in other areas in Bicol. For Cam. Sur he committed to establish 10 more SPIS projects and allocate an additional P100 million in the form of loan facility as he challenged Representative Luis Raymond Villafuerte and governor Miguel Luis to increase the production yield in the province by 10% next year which presently has an average production yield of 3.7 metric tons per hectare.

Sec. Piñol likewise bared his proposal to provide pension for farmers of at least P1,000 per month as an incentive and

the government appreciation for their vital contribution to our nation. He explains that while the government is now providing support to poor families via the 4Ps our farmers deserve even more to be supported as they feed our people and they are engaged in productive undertakings which contribute to the economic growth of our nation.

Sec. Piñol's visit to Bicol was the first leg of his 5-day caravan or "Byaheng Bukid" before the close of the year. He proceeded to Samar whose agricultural development he committed to personally oversee. From there he will also be dropping by other regions along the way to visit agricultural projects and interact with farmers and stakeholders. The last leg will be in Mindanao to his home province in Cotabato. (**Emily B. Bordado**)



Sec. Piñol led the inauguration of the P5M Solar Powered Irrigation Project in Bagadion, Libmanan, Cam. Sur.

Cam. Sur coco sap ... (from page 3)

MPC members are expected to receive a dividend share worth P15,505.60 per year.

Prior to the completion of the Camarines Sur Coconut Sap Sugar Processing Center, the FBW conducted a dry run operation of the Camarines Sur Coco Sap Sugar Processing Enterprise using fuel stove.

"Ang laking tulong nito sa amin kasi hindi po namin kakayanin ang pagpapa-construct ng building. Very thankful po kami sa PRDP. Sa wakas meron na po kaming processing center na makakatulong sa mga farmers at sa mga gumagawa po ng coco sap sugar," she added.

PRDP also trained the FBW Multi-Purpose Cooperative in

business planning, marketing, and bookkeeping as well as packaging and labelling.

During the punchlist inspection conducted by the PRDP-Bicol infrastructure development (I-BUILD) team on October 29, 2018, Roads and Bridges Specialist Zosimo Ordas Jr., the Camarines Sur Coconut Sap Sugar Processing Center is the first project of the said province to be completed ahead of schedule. Punchlist inspection is usually conducted when the project reaches the accomplishment of at least 95 percent to evaluate the accomplishment based on the plan and detailed engineering design. (**Annielyn L. Baleza**)



PRDP I-BUILD Head Engr. Arnle Ilan (2nd from right) and Roads and Bridges Specialist Engr. Zosimo Ordas (1st from left) conduct the Punchlist Inspection at the Camarines Sur Coconut Sap Sugar Processing Center in Brgy. San Vicente Baao, Camarines Sur.

Sec. Piñol rallies local ... (from page 1)

Suitability color-coded maps; the solar powered irrigation systems; the provision of easy access loans among others. As an incentive to the mayors who personally attended the summit Piñol committed to provide P10M worth Farm-to-Market Road for each town to be included in the 2020 budget.

The other DA top officials who were present during the summit were Segfredo Serrano, undersecretary for Policy and Planning who gave the welcome remarks; Arnel de Mesa, Regional Executive Director of DA Calabarzon and Luzon B cluster head who presented the South Luzon cluster situationer; Dr. Elena B. De los Santos, RED of DA Bicol; Antonio Gerundio, RED of MIMAROPA; and other top officials of the DA regional offices and attached agencies.

Prior to the summit the DA regional offices convened the municipal agriculturists, representatives and stakeholders from the rice, corn, fishery sector, livestock, high value crops, organic agriculture, farmers organizations and other rural-based organizations including the agriculture and fishery



councils to draft their municipal food security plans. First, they have to identify which food commodities are already sufficient or have surplus in each municipality and which are deficient by computing the net available production volume over the per capita consumption or requirement of the local population. These data became the basis for drafting a municipal food security action plan.

During the food summit in Manila these action plans were formally turned over to the DA through Sec. Piñol. Mayor Fernando Mesa of Alabat Island in Quezon Province and Mayor Antonio Carolino of Sta. Maria Laguna did the honors of presenting their municipal



food security action plan. As a culminating activity the local chief executives who personally attended the summit and the representatives affixed their signature to the commitment wall as a manifestation of their pledge to food security of their locality and the entire nation.

The Bicol delegation

consisted of over 200 which included 23 mayors and 1 vice mayor. Most of the mayors sent their representatives and their Municipal Agriculturists, but 75 percent of the Bicol's municipalities were able to submit their municipal food security action plan. (**Emily B. Bordado**)

Bicol hosts 84th RIC ... (from page 7)

that combining agriculture and tourism can spur economic, social and educational growth in a community. Aside from generating jobs agri-tourism will open business opportunities or agri-enterprises for the rural families and reduce urban migration.

Meanwhile Agriculture regional executive director, Dr. Elena de los Santos in her message read by Dr. Mary Grace Rodriguez, OIC chief of the Field Operations Division said that agri-tourism has great potential to thrive and flourish especially in the rural areas because of the agricultural nature of our economy and the

rich natural endowments of every region. She added that as women are very creative and innovative they can develop various products or engage in value adding using the available resources in the locality. She added that agri-tourism can also rekindle the appreciation on the importance of agriculture among the youths.

For her part, Elsa Parrot, Rural Based Organization (RBO) national Focal person of the ATI who represented OIC-director Dr. Luz Taposok shared that farm or agri-tourism sites or centers now being established across the country also serve as learning

sites which can be the venue for imparting or promoting new knowledge, technologies and best practices on sustainable agriculture and environment friendly farm practices. She said this is where the RIC members or the women can play an important role as they very good and effective as teachers or mentors.

The 3-day event featured lectures on agri-tourism development, financial literacy and sharing of good practices and experiences by successful entrepreneurs in cacao processing, No-Bake cake making, Success story of an Outstanding Gawad Saka

RIC Awardee and Thailand experiences on rice cracker, banana, egg Mud making and pili nut processing. The delegates were also brought to the SONRISA learning Site and the deer farm of the province.

One of the highlights of the event was the General assembly and rendering of reports by the officers, selection and coronation of Mrs. RIC and the ceremonial awarding of the RIC Outreach Project.

The conduct convention was also supported by the DA and the ATI and the City government of Naga. (**Emily B. Bordado**)

Climate resilient FFS graduates share experiences & good practices

By Emily B. Bordado

PAMPLONA, CAM. SUR

— Barangay, Cagbunga of this municipality a small agricultural community which is located along the Bicol River is prone to flooding whenever the river overflows and its interior sitios and neighboring barangays are prone to drought especially during the dry months. But despite their location's vulnerability to flooding and drought, the people of this barangay are industrious, tenacious and resilient.

Through the years the residents of Cagbunga and the neighboring barangays have learned to adapt to the vagaries of weather and found ways to mitigate the adverse impact of the various factors that affect their livelihood and existence. For these they were chosen to be the pilot site for the implementation of the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Project (AMIA) of the Department of Agriculture. Their community has been dubbed as the AMIA Village as it showcases various interventions and initiatives



to address climate change in agriculture.

According to Sandy Bobier, the project research assistant, some of the interventions introduced in the community were the use of Green Super Rice (GSR) 11 variety which is known to be flood and saline tolerant; the planting of Taro varieties; the use of Ultra Violet Stabilized (UVS)Plastic as dryer; Crop Rain sheltering; Rice-duck integration; nipa fruit processing; use of farm weather advisory and availment of crop insurance.

Alongside with these interventions extension support via the Climate Resiliency Farmers School was conducted

in the community with 80 participants for five months from June to October 2018.

During the simple graduation ceremonies held on October 31 at the barangay chapel, the Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Digest in flip chart format were turned over to the community through the Barangay chairperson Noli Panti and to the Municipal Local Government Unit through Danilo Bordon, the

integration. The duck eggs provided food for their family . Cecilia Quipayo on the other hand tried processing the nipa fruits which used to be ignored in their community. "Dati dai pinapansin. Pwede palan source of income siya", she bared. The Bureau of Agricultural Research through DA Regional Research Division under Ms. Marcelino has funded the project with Arlene I. de Asis providing the technical

municipal agriculturist. Also present during the graduation ceremonies were Luz Marcelino, chief of the DA Research Division, Lorenzo Alvina, DA's focal person on Disaster Risk Management (DRRM); and Emily Bordado; Chief of the DA Information section; other barangay officials and farmer leaders from Cagbunga, Cagbibi and Patong.

The highlight of the event was the testimonies rendered by the farmer cooperators and beneficiaries of the various interventions. Judith Imperial shared how she was able to attain a higher yield from the usual 13 cavans to 40 cavans by using the GSR 11 variety. Aurora San Juan and Rufina Sabalboro related that heir taro have yielded big leaves and have grown so tall and recovered fast even when salt water intruded into their field. Enelia Sabalboro enthused about the effectiveness and efficiency of using UVS plastic sheet placed at about 2 feet over the palay grains to hasten drying.

Rufina Sabalboro and Monina de Belen also shared their experience in rice-duck

assistance and training for the women.

Monina de Belen attested that the Farm Weather Advisory provided by the project has guided her when to start planting. She noted though that the rain forecast being aired on the local TV channel does not conform with the rain forecast mentioned in the Farm Weather Advisory provided by AMIA so she is sometimes confused.

Meanwhile Norma Leosala shared the benefits from availing of Crop Insurance which somehow eased her woes whne a typhoon damages her crops. By carefully listening to the explanations of the PCIC representatives she was able to comply with the requirements. She said non-approval of claims is primarily due to the discrepancy in data provided by the claimant. "Mayo nin paboritismo sa pagtao nin indemnification kan PCIC, she asserts.

According to Alvina AMIA aims to build climate resilient communities by using new tools and developing new ways of doing things in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in the country.





DA Bicol holds regional technology forum & in-house review

NAGA CITY – Agricultural research and innovation are vital to economic growth. The DA 5 research division, thus holds the 1st Regional Technology Investment Forum and 30th In-house review on October 25-26, 2018 at the Avenue Plaza Hotel this city.

DA Bicol RTD Rodel P. Tornilla, in his speech, said that with the threat of climate change, the challenge to our researchers is to help farmers produce more under difficult conditions.

Tornilla, who started in government as a research assistant said that before, funds for agricultural research are very scarce, but nowadays public investment for agricultural research has soared up to millions of pesos as the government has come to recognize the need to invest in research to produce more with less and in a more sustainable manner. He thus challenged the researchers to develop a technology that would ensure food in the table, surplus production and ultimately viable enterprise.

This year, According to Luz R. Marcelino, Chief of the Research Division, the scientific conference aimed to

assess the probable impact of research results on agricultural productivity and sustainability of agri-ventures.

14 completed researches were presented under four categories and the best studies and posters were given cash awards. The first placer for paper presentation under the Technology Generation was the study entitled “In-Vitro Propagation of Pineapple at DA Region 5 presented by Behilda Balisoro. The second place was garnered by the study “Enhancing the Saleability of Local Garlic Variety through Maillard Reaction Processing presented by Rosella Formento.

Meanwhile, the first placer under the Technology Adaptation category was entitled “Improved Rice Genotypes for Enhancing Productivity in Different Ecosystems in Bicol” presented by Tara Christina Machica. In the second place was the study “Yield Response of Queen Pineapple to Plant Spacing and Fertilizer Management presented by Maria Christina Campita. The third place was garnered by the research “Validating the Effects of Continuous Use of Yellow Hybrid Corn at Calabanga,



OIC RTD Rodel P. Tornilla underscores the need to invest in research to produce more with less and in a sustainable manner.

Cam. Sur presented by Ailyn R. Adante. Under the Technology Verification, the first prize was bagged by the study “Community-based Action Research for Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) in Region 5 presented by Sandy Bobier with co-authors L. Marcelino, Lorenzo Alvina, and RTD Edgar R. Madrid. The second prize went to “Validation of Site-Specific Nutrient Management options through Technology Demonstration by Ailyn Adante, Luz Marcelino and Gladys Camaing.

Under the Technology Commercialization category, the sole Best Paper was the study “Technology Commercialization of Mungbean Production in Bicol Region by L. Marcelino, Engr. Henrilyn Yamson, Danilo Bordon, Nellie Pasion, and RTD Edgar R. Madrid.

The winners in the paper

presentation received P10,000 –first prize; P7,500-second prize; and P5,000 – third prize. For the poster competition, the first place went to the study on mungbean, the second place went to CRA in Region 5 and the third place went to “Substitution of Spent Mushroom Substrate for Vermi Production by L. Marcelino, Angelina Penaserada, Ma. Shiela Nierva, Joseph Nacario, Arnufu De Asis and Nonito Dieta. Winners received cash prizes of P5,000, 4,000 and P3,000 respectively.

The panel of evaluators came from renowned universities, SUCs, DA and private sector.

Dr. Edgar R. Madrid, RTD for Research and Regulations together with Luz R. Marcelino and Corazon A. Orbon, CBES Superintendent, bestowed the awards to the winners. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**



More rice farmers to benefit from DA's flatbed dryers

by Lovella P. Guarin

The “Ber” months signal not only the festive air of Christmas but also the onset of rain and sometimes typhoon which can jeopardize our rice farmers’ harvests for the wet season cropping.

But today rice farmers are not worried as in the past because of the availability now of Flatbed Dryers (FBDs). Since 2007, the Department of Agriculture has established 362 units of flatbed dryers in the region funded under the Rice Program. Less than a hundred dryers were also established under the Bottom Up Budgeting Project. These dryers have benefited over 350 farmers’ organizations and NFA provincial offices.

Flat bed dryers can dry dripping wet palay and corn. Drying or removal of excess moisture for safe storage is another way of increasing farmers’ income by reducing quantity and quality losses. Dried palay at 14% moisture content can be stored up to three months while farmers are waiting for higher price, thus expanding opportunities for farmers.

The provision of FBD is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DA, PhilMech and the recipient organization. One of the conditions stipulated in the MOA is that incase the FBD has not been utilized for two or more months, the DA has the right to transfer the said FBD to another farmers’ organization.

In 2014, the DA has stopped constructing FBDs and focused on rehabilitation and transfer of existing units. Thus, a number of farmers’ organizations which have not received the facility were given chance this time around.

And on October 24-26, 2018, these new recipients of the FBDs that have been repossessed by the DA due to non-use, underwent a Training on the Operation and Maintenance of Flatbed Dryer at Regal Plaza Hotel this municipality. Over 30 participants composed of association

presidents, secretaries and flat bed operators attended the 3-day training.

Engr. Penafrancia O. Suzara, Engineer II of the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) said that FBDs were provided by the DA in the past years to reduce postharvest losses and help farmers’ associations generate income from palay drying. Engr. Suzara also urged the participants to maximize the use of their FBDs and maintain two operators to ensure continuous operation. She also reminded the association presidents to save some of their income for the maintenance of the facility as the DA can only shoulder the rehabilitation of the shed, furnace and flooring.

Engr. Suzara added that these FBDs which cost P700,000 to P850,000 (for FBDs with mixer) designed by the PhilMech were given for free by the DA to the recipient organizations. The only counterpart from the recipient was 200 sq. m. lot area and 6x13 sq. m flooring. The FBDs use rice hull as fuel and gasoline to start the engine blower.

One new recipient of FBD was Montecalvario Smart Farmers Association (MOCSEA) represented in the training by its president, Jejomar C. Aguilar. The coop has 55 members tilling close to 100 hectares rice areas. Aguilar noticed that there is not a single flatbed dryer installed to in barangay Montecalvario and neighboring barangays in Buhi, Camarines Sur. Their constant problem during wet season is they cannot store their palay. “kahit mababa ang presyo, kailangan nang ibenta ang palay. Kung iniimbak naman maraming nasasayang, tumutubo na at nangingitim

dahil hindi natuyo,” he related.

Thus, Aguilar submitted a letter request to DA Regional Executive Director Elena B. de los Santos for the installation of flatbed dryer in their area. The members pay P25/ bag of wet palay. P20 goes to the coop and P5 to the FBD operator. Their dryer is open 24 hours to coop members and even non-members. The FBD has a maximum capacity of 120 bags. Based on Aguilar’s experience, they have dried 85 bags at 50 kilos palay for 10 hours using 6 liters diesel and 11 bags rice hull. He is optimistic that more farmers in his area will earn higher profit with the aid of the FBD.

Meanwhile, another participant was Elpidio Gabo, founding chairman and current Production Manager of the Ambos Camarines Agri Coop based in Bgy. Itumang, Talisay, Camarines Norte. Their coop received two (2) units recirculating flatbed dryers, in addition to the P16M worth Rice Processing Center 2 granted to them by the DA in 2014. These facilities helped their 140 members maintain their over 300 hectares paddy rice field and 100 hectares upland rice areas scattered all over Camarines Norte. The coop buys the farmer member’s produce either fresh or dry. Out of its income from years of operation, the coop was able to purchase a truck, and developed the business area. They also managed the maintenance of the equipment. During the harvest season from March to May (dry season) and October-December (wet season), the drying operations of the coop lasted for 14 hours everyday.

Niño Bengosta, Science Research Specialist II and Cluster Head for Luzon B of PhilMech served as resource speaker during the training. Through lectures and hands on exercises, the participants learned the concept of biomass furnace, parts and functions of FBD, operating procedure, and safety measures, maintenance, trouble shooting and preparation of Utilization Report. The DA through the RAED is monitoring the status of these FBDs through the required utilization report to be submitted by the recipients of FBDs.



Scientific breakthroughs, bus. opportunities highlighted at 1st Pili Natl Scientific Confab

NAGA CITY, CAMARINES SUR – Pili's antioxidant and anticancer properties. Pharmaceutical and cosmetic use of pili essential oils. Separation and analysis techniques as well as standardization in producing quality essential oils. These are just few of the scientific breakthroughs and business opportunities unveiled during the 1st Pili (Canarium spp.) National Scientific Conference and Trade Fair held on November 5-6, 2018, this city.

With the theme "Advancing the Pili Industry Through Science and Technology," the two-day activity was initiated by the Philippine Pili Industry League Inc. (PhilPILI) headed by Rosalina S. Tan in coordination with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office V (DA RFO V), the Local Government Unit of Naga City, Elemie Naturals and other partner agencies and institutions.

About 192 pili stakeholders nationwide attended the

conference which featured local and international researchers who presented their scientific papers about pili.

OIC RTD for Operations and Extension Rodel P. Tornilla reads the keynote message of Sec. Piñol.

Dr. Mary Grace DP. Rodriguez, OIC Chief of the DA RFO V and High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) Regional Focal Person, shared the status, prospects and Bicol initiatives for pili industry

Entrepreneurs who ventured in pili nut processing such as Maria Lydia P. Lomibao of J. Emmanuel Pastries-The House of Pili and Myra Zandra N. Gestia of Vicky's Pili and Food Products shared their success stories, best practices and personal experiences that contributed to their success in the pili industry.

The 1st Pili (Canarium spp.) National Scientific Conference and Trade Fair also marks the soft launch of the coffee table book "Pili: Treasure of Bicolandia." (**Annielyn L. Baleza**)



Dr. Professor Temel Ozek, director of Anadolu University Medicinal Plants, Drugs and Scientific Research Center in Turkey and main research presenter, discusses "Ensuring Quality of Oils Through Standardization" during the confab.



DA RFO V division chiefs and officials (L-R) Luz R. Marcelino, Adelina A. Losa, RTD Tornilla, and Dr. Mary Grace DP. Rodriguez join Dr. Professor Temel Ozek, director of Anadolu University Medicinal Plants, Drugs and Scientific Research Center in Turkey (5th from left) and Philippine Pili Industry League Inc. (PhilPILI) President Rosalina S. Tan in a photo.

Over 500 farmers completed training course on Organic Farming

SAN JOSE, PILI CAMARINES SUR - Over 500 farmers from 13 municipalities and 2 cities of Camarines Sur completed the 5-month course on Organic Agriculture via the School on the Air Program conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the Local government Units.

According to Vivien Carable, OIC Director of the ATI, the SOA was in support to the National Organic Agriculture Program which is

being aggressively promoted by the DA. She acknowledged the support of the Local government units through the municipal agriculturists and extension workers who assisted the farmer enrollees during the conduct of the training.

The participants came from the municipalities of Baao, Buhi, Balatan, Calabanga, Goa, Pili, Nabua, San Fernando, San Jose, Sangay, Sipocot, Tinambac, Tigaon, Nabua and the cities of Iriga and Naga.

The DA regional Office was represented by Emilia

B. Bordado, the chief of the Regional Agriculture and Information Section. She acknowledged the farmers present especially the graduates as "Mga Bayani sa Lahat ng Panahon" (Heroes for all seasons). She explained that while the DA support both the organic and conventional farming, it is up to the farmers to decide and chose which type of farming they would want to choose or adopt. What is important is that farmers make enlightened decision based on the right knowledge and information they have from

readings and trainings they attended like this SOA which is a traditional but very effective learning method.

A representative of Senator Cynthia Villar, also graced the graduation ceremonies held at the Atrium of the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture. She discussed the different projects of Senator Villar and the Villar Foundation in particular the learning sites across the country which are helping farmers including the youth upgrade their knowledge and skills in agricultural entrepreneurship.

DA-PCAF to measure agri mechanization in Bicol

NAGA CITY – Five years after the signing and implementation of the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) law in June 2013, how far has agricultural mechanization gone in our country? This is the question, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) want to answer. Farm mechanization is not only crucial to the department's pursuit of food security but also to the government's goal of inclusive growth.

Relative to this, the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) of DA 5 in tandem with the PCAF recently invited the provincial agriculturists and engineers of the six Bicol provinces for a three-day workshop held in Naga City on October 29-31, 2018.

facilities being used by our farmers as well as production area in hectare, volume of production and volume of produce for milling per municipality.

For rice production, the survey will cover agri machineries and postharvest facilities being used by farmers during land preparation, planting, crops care management, harvesting, threshing, drying, milling, and storage.

Machineries provided to farmers to aid in land preparation include 2-wheel drive tractor, 4-wheel drive tractor, multi-track type tractor, hand tractor and floating tiller. The machineries used in planting include walk behind rice transplanter, riding type rice transplanter, mechanical seeder and drum seeder. For harvesting, the farmers are using combine harvester,



RAED Chief Engr. Nilda Albaño.

are power sprayer, mechanical fertilizer applicator, and mechanical weeder. Also included in the survey are hauling truck, seed cleaner, seed spreader and mechanical grain collector.

In the survey, machineries given by the DA, DAR, DSWD and DOST to the farmers as well as privately owned are included but not those owned by private rice mills.

Engr. Serrano added that the output of this survey will cover the municipal level. "Kung aling munisipyo ang mababa pa ang level ng mechanization ay yun ang bibigyan ng priority intervention ng pamahalaan," he quipped. He explained that the level of mechanization shall be determined in terms of hp./ha. through the Modified

efficiency in order to achieve food security and safety and increase farmers' income, among others."

Among the important milestones of the AFMech Law was the creation of the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) mandated to coordinate, oversee and monitor the national planning and implementation of agri-fisheries engineering, farm-to-market road and other agri-fisheries infrastructure projects. The Agricultural Engineering Group of the Local Government Units was also strengthened. Moreover, the Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Centers (AMTEC) of the UPLB was institutionalized and designated as the premier and reference testing center in the country. It is assisting the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards in the formulation of quality, safety and performance standards of agricultural and fisheries machinery and of accreditation guidelines for testing centers.

The AFMech Law also organized the Agri-Fisheries Mechanization RDE Network responsible for the formulation and implementation of the National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization RDE Agenda. The network is chaired by the Phil. Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech).

An official survey on farm mechanization released by PhilMech in 2013 recorded the mechanization level of farms in the Philippines at 1.23 horsepower per hectare. Rice and corn farms had the highest level of farm power at 2.31 hp/ha. (Lovella P. Guarin)



Prov'l. agriculturists and engineers of Bicol provinces attended the workshop. Engr. Froilan Serrano of PCAF

Engr. Froilan Serrano of PCAF introduced the Modified Agricultural Mechanization Index (MAMI), a procedure to determine the level of mechanization in terms of horsepower (hp)/ hectare (ha). The Modified Mechanization Index was formulated by the UPLB, Center for Agri-Fisheries and BioSystems Mechanization and the PCAF. The RAED in coordination with the Provincial Engineering Group (PAEG) will conduct a comprehensive survey to determine the number of agri machineries and postharvest

multi-crop combine harvested or reaper. During threshing, they either use small or large mechanical thresher. For drying, the government has provided numerous facilities that include flatbed dryers, reversible airflow flatbed dryers, mobile recirculating dryer, recirculating batch dryer and multi-purpose drying pavement. The milling facilities include single pass rice mill, multi-pass rice mill and brown rice mill. For storage, the farmers were given warehouse or hermetic storage. For crop care management, included

Agricultural Mechanization Index procedure which include the determination of soil type, effective field capacity of power source, inputs applied, amount of irrigation water used, rice variety and yield.

The Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law or RA 106011 was aimed to "promote the development and adoption of modern, appropriate and cost-effective and environmentally-safe agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment to enhance farm productivity and

DA Bicol conducts forum on SOGIE basics in the workplace and VAWC

NAGA CITY – Rain, not her real name, 23, works as a government employee. Raised with a cultural stereotype that only men and women are socially acceptable, she grew up confused about her real identity. At a Christmas party back in grade school, she opted to wear denim pants, spaghetti-strapped top under a black, long-sleeved checkered shirt, and a pair of sneakers. In high school, she intentionally missed her junior and senior promenade simply because she's uncomfortable being dolled up and wearing high-heeled footwear. She appreciates beautiful women and instead of being attracted to the opposite sex, she envies what they are capable of doing.

"Ano ba talaga ako?"

"Normal ba ako?"

"Saan ba ako belong?"

"Okay lang ba kay God? Kasalanan ba na taliwas sa itinuro nya ang nararamdaman ko?"

Although she never experienced being bullied in school or in the workplace for being "different," these questions have been tormenting Rain for many years. But after the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Basics in the Workplace and Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Forum, Rain felt enlightened. She can now define herself based from her SOGIE: Female, Asexual, Agender and Androgenous.

Rain was among the 81 personnel of the Department of Agriculture Field Office V and its attached agencies and line bureaus including Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA),

Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) and Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) who attended the forum on SOGIE Basics in the Workplace and VAWC held on November 28, 2018, this city.

An offshoot of the gender and development forum held in 2017, the activity aims to create awareness among employees about SOGIE and its concepts in relation to the workplace, discuss value gender differences, and internalize gender issues both at the professional level and in their personal lives. Likewise, it is the DA RFO V's way of expressing support to the 18-day annual campaign to end VAW, which remains a public issue of national concern.

In her lecture on the topic, Kristine R. Busadre, Regional Gender and Development Officer at the Department of Social Welfare



and Development (DSWD) described SOGIE and identified the different treaties, conventions and other local and international laws discussing the rights of LGBTQIA++. She also debunked stereotypes based on SOGIE and clarified how these affect employees and the LGBTQIA+ community. Moreover, she challenged the participants to express their commitment to end abuse and discrimination based on



SPO4 Liza Jane Cañares-Alteza (left) discusses Republic Act 9262 also known as the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004."



Kristine R. Busadre, GAD Officer of DSWD lectures on "Sex, Orientation, Gender Identity Expression."

SOGIE.

According to Busadre, sex refers to being male, female or intersexual. Orientation, on the other hand, answers the question "To whom am I attracted to? Who do I love?" and can vary from heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, asexual or pansexual. Gender identity answers the question: "Who am I?" which can be a man, woman, transgender, bigender or agender. The way in which a person projects his or her gender identity usually through appearance, fashion and behavior is called Expression which can be feminine,

has or had a sexual or dating relationship or with whom he has a common child.

"VAWC includes but is not limited to physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and economic abuse," said SPO4 Alteza. She also explained how issuance of Protection Order can prevent further acts of VAWC and discussed the duties of barangay officials and law enforcers in ensuring its implementation.

The forum on SOGIE Basics in the Workplace and VAWC is also anchored on the Sustainable Development

masculine or androgynous.

Meanwhile, SPO4 Liza Jane Cañares-Alteza educated the participants about Republic Act 9262 also known as the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004." Signed into law on March 8, 2004, RA 9262 defines VAWC as any act or a series of acts committed by any person against a woman who is his wife/former wife, a woman with whom the person

Goals on Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

"Lahat tayo may karapatan kaya igalang na lang natin ang isa't isa. Challenge ko sa sarili ko na irespeto ko din ang iba kasi alam ko na nirerespeto din nila kung ano ako. Walang pagja-judge, basta ginagawa namin ng maayos ang trabaho namin," Rain added. (**Annielyn L. Baleza**)

PRAISE recognizes top performing divisions/units/employees



Field Operations Division



Admin & Finance Division



Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Division



Agribusiness & Marketing Division



Regulatory Division



Research Division



Integrated Laboratories Division



Engineering Division (RAED)



Information Section (RAFIS)



Organic Agriculture - Best Banner Program



CBES - Best Research Outreach Station



Luz Marcelino - Marcos R Vega



ORED/ RAFIS/ PMED Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Stakeholders Awardee



*Gemma Bulalacao
Best Liason Officer 2018*



*Corn and Cassava Achievers Awards
Committee*



*Organic Agriculture
Achievers Award Committee*



*Rice Achievers Awards
Committee*



*Gawad Saka and Outstanding Rural Women
Search Committee*

Pets get free veterinary services

SAN AGUSTIN, PILI, CAM. SUR---“Bako po ining ayam. Garo aki mi na po ini (This is not a dog. He is like our own child),” said 34-year old Doriesa Villamater on her half-husky, half-asong Pinoy (aspin) dog named Leila Defourth on how they treat their pet dogs.

Leila was being carried on Villamater's shoulders like a baby to comfort her from the anti-rabies injection.

Leila was one of the 139 dogs and cats who were either spayed, neutered, vaccinated with anti-rabies or anti-parvo virus, and dewormed for free by 12 veterinarians from government and private offices as highlight of the Animal Welfare Month celebration of the Department of Agriculture-Bicol on October 11, 2018 at the covered court of the DA-Bicol here.

The DA Regulatory Division earlier conducted info campaign in partnership



with LGU-Pili during the local celebration of World Animal Day.

Under RA 8545, or Animal Welfare Act of 1998 it is "unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance of shelter, or maltreat any animal or to

subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal Welfare." (**Jayson M. Gonzales**)

DA honors outstanding rural... (from page 20)

raising cattle, the family was able to attain a gross income of P1.07 million from their coconut, cacao, guyabano, mangosteen, red pepper and ginger acquiring a total ROI of 224%. As a woman leader, she was instrumental in buying the lot where the Farmers Development Cooperative was established and she also facilitated the P1million loan from government, as well as the acquisition of the lot where the milk collection center of Cadalian Dairy Farmers Coop now stands.

Artiaga on the other hand is proof that perseverance, hard work and being open to new things can make a big difference to one's life. For 20 years she worked overseas as domestic helper to help her family and support the education of her siblings. She was an active crusader of migrants rights. In 2011 she decided to go

home to take care of her ailing parents. She then ventured into farming. Using her savings she developed the one hectare hilly land along the highway of Lupi into an integrated diversified organic farm now known as St. Francis St. Rita Nature Farm. It has become the first certified organic farm in the province. Her farm which she personally manage is into commercial production of organically certified swine as well as native pigs, which are sold as breeder or roasted organic lechon. She is an active member of various civic and agri- organizations in her municipality.

Agriculture secretary Pinol in his message read by Usec. Lavina said that the DA is continuously retooling its system and making headway to level the playing field for men and women.

Usec, Lavina for her part underscored that the DA is

striving to be inclusive – to cater to all; the producers, the consumers, the traders and other players. She disclosed that the DA- GAD system is working out that the 5% budget allocated for GAD from the various programs of the government but appropriated equitably that is, 2% to be used for GAD focused projects and 3% on attribution.

She commended the winners and thanked the people behind the Annual Search for the Outstanding Rural Women in Agriculture. She made special mention and requested the audience to applaud of the Bicol women team headed by Aloha Gigi Banaria, the DA-GAD regional focal person for working very hard in all their undertakings. Since the conferment of this prestigious National Award, the Bicol region has produced 3 national grand winners

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cash prize of P20,000.00 while Gino will receive P5,000.00.

The contest aimed to promote and enhance awareness, appreciation and value of Organic Agriculture to the society and elicit cooperation and support of the public in upgrading the quality and standards of Organic Agriculture in the country.

The regional contest for the two categories was held on October 1, 2018 at the Polangui General Comprehensive High School, Polangui, Albay.

The second and third place winners for the Regional Poster-Making contest were Winnoh R. Ogarte of Naga Central School 1, Naga City and Marlon Rementizo Jr. from Polangui North Central School, Polangui, Albay, respectively.

For the Regional Essay-Writing Contest, Nikki Shane V. Pillejera of Masbate National Comprehensive High School, Masbate City and Blesil C. Luna of Bicol Regional Science High School, Ligao City placed second and third place respectively.

First, second and third place winners received a cash prize of P3,000.00; P2,000.00; and P1,000.00 respectively. (**Jayson M. Gonzales / photos courtesy of Christie Alvarez and coach Glenn Sentes**)

which had gained recognition even internationally. Last year the grand prize winner was Rebecca Sanchez Purisima a tribal chieftain from Tigaon, Camarines Sur who also represented the Philippine in APECS's Women in Agriculture and Fisheries (WiAF) Dialogue in Papua New Guinea. Purisima was also invited during this year's awarding ceremony who have inspirational message. Yearly Bicol's regional winner in this search is always in the top three. (**Emily B. Bordado**)

DA honors outstanding rural women 2018

PASAY CITY - The Department of Agriculture honors the outstanding women in agriculture who have demonstrated excellence in their agri-based undertakings which uplifted not only their families but the community as well. In a simple but meaningful ceremonies, the top six national finalists selected from the 15 regional winners were conferred trophies, plaques and a total of P355,000 cash prizes. This year's top three Outstanding Rural Women are, Evelyn Alegado-Grace of barangay Lauis, Candelaria, Zambales; Evangeline Asistado-Novela of Cadalian, Baguio District, Davao City and Josephine Gandol Artiaga of Bulawan Sr., Lupi Camarines Sur. DA undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit and concurrently the chairperson of the Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System Evelyn Laviña conferred the awards, on December 7, 2018 at the Philippine Convention Center.



Josephine G. Artiaga of Lupi, Cam. Sur, 2nd Runner Up received the award from Usec. Laviña (2nd from right).

Evelyn Grace, the grand winner received a cash prize of P150,00 and an additional prize in the form of production inputs, farm machinery and postharvest facility. Evangeline Novela and Josephine Artiaga, 1st and 2nd runner up received P100,000 and P75,000 cash prize respectively. Consolation



Usec. Evelyn Laviña



Evelyn Grace, the grand winner.



Rebecca Sanchez Purisima, 2017 winner

prize of P10,000 each was given to Evelyn Agtarap Duldulao of poblacion, Luna, Luna, Apayao; Francisca-Somejo-Rimalos of Bgy. Tapel, Gonzaga, Cagayan and Susana Villanca-Arcenal of Tinago, Talisay, Daanbantayan, Cebu.

Grace was cited for being outstanding not only in the field of agriculture, environment conservation and protection but also exemplary in community service and in promoting advocacies such as women empowerment and rural development. She personally oversees the management of the three-hectare farm where they produce rice, mango and vegetables and an agro-forest area where cashew, tamarind and ginger are intercropped with agro-forest trees. Harvested fruits are processed to add value. From all these she earned a gross income of about P3millin with a 49.91% ROI in 2017.

Novela is engaged in dairy production and selling male offspring. Aside from

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Sorsogon studes shine in Nat'l. poster, essay tilts for organic agri

MAKATI CITY ---Bicol Region representatives shone in the National On-the-Spot Poster-Making and Essay-Writing Contests with the theme "Organic Agriculture: Advancing the local food culture movement in the Philippines" in celebration of Organic Agriculture Month in November. The event was sponsored by DA & DepEd in one of the hotels here.

Daryll Jan M. De la Rosa of Sorsogon National High School placed second in the essay-writing contest while Krysten G. Gino of the Sorsogon Pilot Elementary School placed fifth in the poster-making contest.

Both students were winners in the recently concluded Regional On-the-Spot Poster-Making and Essay-Writing Contests held last October 1, 2018 at the Polangui General Comprehensive High School.

De la Rosa will receive
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Engr. Christopher Morales (center), National Program Coordinator of Organic Agriculture awards the certificates to Daryll Jan Dela Rosa (4th from left) and Krysten Gino (4th from right).



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