

**”Kung wala kang pain, wala kang huli”  
(If you don’t have a bait, you won’t have a catch)**

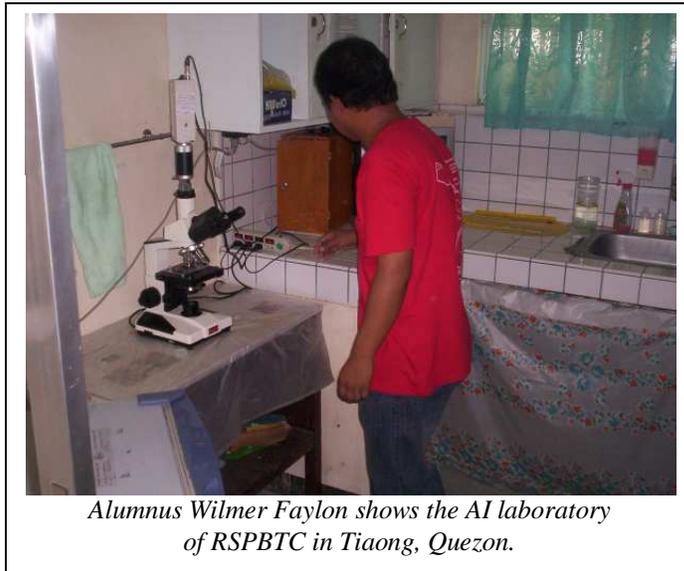
*Success can be measured by self-less giving of talents, time and service to the community. ATI-ITCPH trained Josenieto “Nick” Bihis, Marjorie Lalap and Wilmer Faylon realized that sharing their expertise to the community is much more rewarding than all accolades and awards combined.*

*The Artificial Insemination (AI) project of the Regional Swine Production and Breeding Center in Tiaong, Quezon is a concerted effort of the three ITCPH Alumni: Nick – who attended the International Course on Pig Husbandry; Wilmer – National Course on Artificial Insemination on Pigs, and Marj – National Trainers Course on Pig Husbandry.*

The following is the recount of the interview with alumnus, Josenieto Bihis, Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Swine Production and Breeding Center.

***What happened after the training at ATI-ITCPH?***

“After their training at ATI-ITCPH, I was promoted from Agriculturist II to Sr. Agriculturist (Officer-in-Charge). Wilmer was designated as Farm Manager and Marj became in-charge of the AI laboratory.”



“My pilot project, the “Establishment of a Breeding Barn” was not fully implemented because of financial constraints. However, I still thought of pursuing a project on swine AI with the primary goal of improving the genetic make-up of pigs in the area and eventually to generate resources.

***What projects have you implemented?***

“To improve the genetics of pigs in the area, we established an AI Center with six boars and a fully equipped laboratory. The target clients are raisers within the second district of Tiaong, Quezon.”

“In order to create awareness on AI, we conducted seminars on AI twice a month in various barangays of the district. It was really hard to introduce the technology, at first, especially techniques on heat detection and insemination.”

“To date, the Center produces 250 doses/month with 354 clients. The Center serves the areas of Tiaong (main), but there are also walk-in clients from San Pablo City, Alaminos, Lucena and Mulanay.”

***Did ITCPH contribute to your personal or career development? How?***

“Yes of course! The trainings developed in us the right skills and techniques on raising pigs.”

“Personally, our work attitude changed because we saw how the ITCPH staff work, ‘hardworking and dedicated’. *Dati kasi merong stigma na* if government offices *tamad ang mga empleyado* (There’s a stigma that if you work in government offices, employees are lazy). So we tried our best to change. Even on weekends we report to serve our clients!”

***What other factors contributed to your success?***

“I guess we are not yet at the peak of success. We are still trying our best to be there.”

“But our success at the moment is due to the teamwork of the group. Each of us does our own part to produce a good product - semen. And more importantly, the Center is fortunate to have a dedicated staff.”



***What are your plans?***

“In the future, the office is planning to expand its project, serving not only the second district but also the third and fourth district farmers (hopefully). For the farm, we are planning to build a farrowing house, nursery and finisher pens. More importantly, we are envisioning a ‘Swine AI Mobile Laboratory’ that would bring AI to the farmers.”

***What advice can you give to fellow alumni who are struggling to be a committed extension worker and are having a hard time implementing their pilot projects?***

“I remembered the words of Sir Medel Dimaculangan which I used as a working principle. *Sabi niya*, “*Wag manawang gumawa ng proposal. Kasi kung wala kang pain, wala kang huli*” (He said, “Do not get tired of making a proposal. If you don’t have a bait you won’t have a catch”).”

“Try to start with a small project. Use whatever resources you have. Then bit by bit expand until you realize your dream or target.” Very well said, isn’t it?