

ANITA TARAN: Unselfishly Sharing her Expertise in Eastern Samar



Ms. Anita Taran or Anitz started working as a research assistant at the Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCA) (now Leyte State University) in Baybay, Leyte. She taught at the college for sometime then joined a private company for a year.

While working in the said company, her boss always reminded her of this motto, "*habang may buhay, may mapipiga sa iyo*". This was what her boss usually uttered to her while doing all stuff of work in the company, i.e., marketing, accounting, among others. So, she became hard working and was determined to do any kind of work.

These were the qualities she exhibited when she transferred to the government service as a Livestock Inspector I. After four (4) months, she was promoted to Agriculturist I. She then worked as an Animal Breeding Technologist. But only after a year, her item was upgraded to Agriculturist II and eventually she became the Agricultural Center Chief (ACC).

While being the ACC, she covered five (5) municipalities of Eastern Samar. It was also during this period that the AI Center in the municipality of Basey was established through her efforts. Undeniably, she did a very good job and got the position of Supervising Agriculturist. At present, she is designated as Chief of the Livestock Section of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist. Through the years, she had proven herself to be a true public servant.

Along with her experiences and credentials, the trainings at ATI-ITCPH also helped her gain more confidence in assisting her clients. She appreciated the "learning by doing" principle of training at the Center.

"If you are willing and interested to learn and do things, you become an expert. And you gain more confidence which moves you to serve your clients", Anitz happily shared.



Anitz with her client

She assisted Mr. Daniel Y. Cabigon of Coco Valley Piggery Farm in the conceptualization and establishment of his 200-sow level ACEF-funded project in Basey, Samar. Mr. Cabigon appreciated Anitz' commitment



to any endeavor. "She is a person who is ready to give help when needed", he added.

Anitz introduced AI to her other client, Mr. Rufo Rene C. Gamba. Before he met Anitz, he was a local radio broadcaster and has a boar-for-hire as sideline business. But after hearing about the advantages of AI, he was convinced to shift to AI. Anitz also encouraged him to attend the AI Course at ATI-ITCPH. He attended the course in 2005.

Now, Mr. Gamba has clients in 10 municipalities of Western Samar using his five (5) AI boars. He described Anitz as "*mapursigi, hindi siya madamot sa information at maaasahan* (enthusiastic, unselfish in giving information and dependable)". "*Sana marami pang Anitz na katulad niya* (I hope there are more Anitz like her), he added.

The couple, Lyndon and Jocelyn Yu was proud to share their experiences with Anitz. According to them, "Anitz gives her technical services for free. She has sense of ownership in the farms that she is assisting. When there is a problem in the farm, she goes there as early as 6 o'clock in the morning even if the owner is not yet around. She attends to the urgent things promptly and gives advice to the caretaker".

Lyndon and Jocelyn admitted they have very little knowledge on pig keeping. But with Anitz around to help them, her persistence and hard work contributed to the success of their farm. They are now confident to expand their 12-sow level farm because they know that Anitz and her team will always be willing and ready to help.

Anitz' optimistic attitude and selfless motives keep her on the GO! She never gets tired giving help and technical assistance to her clients and for free!

Finally, Anitz has this to say about her training, "Unforgettable moments, a lot! If we were in the classroom, we were like students afraid to fail the exams. If inside the pig pens, we're like caretakers. In extension, and we're like extension workers giving lectures. During outings and field trips, we're like socialites and tourists. ATI-ITCPH built our intellectual capacity and emotional strength, and molded us to become socially responsible as an agent of change".



Anitz (in white shirt) talks with the Yu couple (right).

