

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FEBRUARY | 2021

Center/Division: **RTC-CAR**

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS <i>(Specific title of activities, Why, When, Where, Who, How many)</i>
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)		<i>No activities for this month.</i>
Modelling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations (Exhibit)		<i>No activities for this month.</i>
Expanding Partnerships Along the Value Chain Through Advisory Services(Advise)	Farm Business Advisory Services	Throughout the month, there were 17 queries responded. Queries asked were on biogas, e-extension, SOA, e-Learning, FITS, and concerns on Urban Agriculture materials.
Enhancing Agriculture Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services (Disseminate)	Information dissemination through online media platforms Development and distribution of quality Knowledge Products (KPs)	ATI-CAR intensified its online promotions with 12 posts (10 FB pages, 1 Transparency seal, and 1 Center's corporate newsletter, <i>The Weavers</i>) in social media. A total of 9,012 individuals were reached and there were 1,982 page views. Knowledge Products Reproduced and Distributed 1,000 print materials were reproduced and distributed. These print materials were provided together with the distribution of RCEF prizes in Kalinga and Ifugao. KP distributed were on <i>Cassava Recipe, 9 Basic Steps Towards Bountiful Corn Harvest, and Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) 1 to 4.</i> Corporate Materials Reproduced and Distributed 110 copies of the Center's corporate newsletter, <i>The Weavers</i> , were reproduced and distributed for the 10 Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITs) Centers and the Office of Provincial Agriculture (OPAg) in Mountain Province. Said publication can also be accessed via the Center's Corporate Website (https://bitly/2OwVThQ). Knowledge Center Maintained The Center maintained its Library services through the continuous updating of database of library materials.

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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	Planning Workshop	<p>DA-ATI-CAR CY2020 Semester 1 In house Planning Activity for FY2022</p> <p>The Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit spearheaded the conduct of the <i>DA-ATI-CAR CY2020 Semester 1 In house Planning Activity for FY2022</i>. Generally, the activity aimed to provide overall direction and guide in the initial formulation of center plans and budget for the year 2022 aligned to DA's strategies to grow agriculture in 2021 and beyond and the inevitable further devolution of extension services to LGUs. Specifically, it aims to present the 2022 Proposed Plans and Budget by banner program coordinators for validation and discuss Management Input/Directions for 2022 onwards.</p> <p>During the activity, all Sections and Units were able to present their respective Proposed Plans and Budget for FY2022. After each presentation, clarifications were raised by management for further improvement and adjustments.</p> <p>The Center Director provided inputs and updates on the DA's Key Strategies to Grow Agriculture in 2021 and Beyond and identified areas for ATI implementation and involvements. DA-Wide level, these were specifically on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Clustering/Bayanihan Agri Clusters (BAC)-strengthening the associations. • Province-Led Agriculture & Fisheries Extension System (PAFES)-as member of the secretariat • Agri-Industrial Business Corridors (ABCS)-on component of Knowledge Repository, Dissemination and Management • Mobilization and Empowerment of Partners to Attain Scale-as member of the secretariat <p>On the DA-ATI level, the Center Director discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATI AFE Strategic Framework: LEADS • Focused on AEW, Organized Groups in coordination with the LGUs(RBOs: P4MP, RIC, 4H) and Extension Innovation Beneficiaries-strengthen the LGU Extension Systems and strengthen the associations involved in the DA interventions • For 2022- training and extension for farmers and fisher folks to be transferred to the LGUs (based on Local Government Code) and ATIs Proposed Functions/Services <p>The planning activity was conducted on February 3-4, 2021, actively participated by 43 DA-ATI-CAR staff at the Aspulan Hall, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet.</p>

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<p>Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)</p>	<p>Consultation</p>	<p>Regional Consultations, Assessment, and Planning Workshop for 4-H Club Coordinators, 4-H Leaders/ Farm Youth</p> <p>The previous year has been tough and remains to be a constraint with the entrance of the new COVID variant. Still, this may cause a detour from the original initiatives set for the young farmers and other stakeholders. Health protocols and travel restrictions is still in effect and group-requiring activities are still prohibited up to this time. Since safety and health is the top priority, digital or online services were found promising platforms for various activities. As possible as can be, the work and financial plan for the 4-H Program shall be implemented under the "new normal".</p> <p>Planning is also a significant strategy on which stakeholders are involve into the decision- making process. Besides, it is the fundamental management function, which involves deciding beforehand, what is to be done, when is it to be done, how it is to be done and who is going to do it.</p> <p>On February 17, 2021, 10 4-H members, 10 Agricultural Extension Worker (AEW), and 1 DA-ATI-CAR staff attended the <i>Regional Consultation for 4-H</i> conducted via Zoom. The activity aimed to provide a clear understanding and synchronization of the interventions for 4-H and RBO's with the LGU's. Specifically, it sought to present the 2020 Regional Accomplishment on 4-H Club and Young Farmer's Program and 2021 4-H Work and Financial Plan; conduct training needs survey for RBO and 4-H Coordinators; plan for the activities and other concerns for the 4-H Regional Summit; present new interventions (Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs (KAYA) loan program for the youth and Young Agriculture and Fishery Council (YAFC)); and conduct meeting for the 4-H regional federation meeting.</p> <p>With this consultation activity, it was agreed that Adopt-a Farm Youth Program participants will be distributed equally among the provinces and cities of CAR.</p> <p>Other discussions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For the updating of 4-H Club, there is a need to cull out organizations that are no longer existing. New set of 4-H Club Federation officers will assume office, roles and responsibilities effective February 18, 2021. ✓ TNS results will be consolidated and serve as basis for future training interventions for the AEW. They are responsible to coordinate closely with ATI with their Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration updating and the co-management of the 4-H Club fund under the young farmers program. ✓ Interested applicants for the KAYA loan program are advised to visit their respective ACPG provincial offices.



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Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)	Consultation	<p>Rural Based Organization Consultation, Assessment, And Planning Workshop for RBO Coordinators, RBO Officers</p> <p>The Rural Based Organizations (RBO) such as 4H Club, Rural Improvement Club (RIC), Pambansang Mannalon-Maguuma-Magbabaun-Magasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP), Indigenous People (IPs) and Professional advisory organizations like Volunteer Youth Leaders Association (VLAP), Japan Agricultural Exchange Council Alumni Association (JAECAP), and Farm and Home Extension Association of the Philippines (FHEXAP) are recognized as functional partners of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in organizing and implementing programs and projects that will help address the Department's issues and concerns specifically alleviate rural poverty.</p> <p>As partners, these organizations consulted to provide program updates, gather feedbacks on previous year's implementation and identify the needs and suggestions to be incorporated in the work plans and activities. As such, the consultation activity aimed to create a sustainable working relationship among stakeholders. Specifically, the participants will be able to explain the finalized 2021 and 2022 plans; identify the active Rural Based Organizations; identify trainings needs and discuss new updates for RBOs.</p> <p>With the issues on travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, consultation with partner RBO coordinators and RBO officers was conducted via Zoom application on February 18, 2021 attended by 32 participants.</p> <p>Agreements made during the consultation were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the unstable condition brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, RBO interventions will be conducted virtual or face to face depending on the situation within the respective locality. 2. Latest training needs survey result will be the basis of future interventions to RBO coordinators and to RBOs. 3. Updating of Master lists of RBOs using the ATI-ISO form by the LGUs for any additional entries indicating the accredited and non-accredited RBO and active and non-active RBOs to be submitted to ATI-CAR. 4. DA-ATI-CAR will counter check the master lists submitted by the LGUs with the master lists of DA-RFO-CAR of accredited organizations.

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<p>Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building (Learn)</p>	<p>Consultation</p>	<p>Regional Livestock Consultation</p> <p>The AEWs of the Local Government Unit (LGUs) play a crucial role in the implementation of agricultural programs and the development of backyard livestock and poultry raisers. As the front liners in the grassroots level, they perform varied roles in their respective areas in the hope of bringing changes in the life of farmers. The effectiveness of the delivery of extension services and projects, then, largely dependent on these AEWs.</p> <p>Actively participated by 24 AEWs, 7 government agency representatives, and 3 representatives from SUCs, the consultation aimed to ensure that the activities and trainings for 2021 will be in accordance to the extension workers' needs and to also synchronized schedules. Thus, the activity served as an avenue to plan and agree on the implementation of the programs of the CY 2021 and finalize targets for CY 2022.</p> <p>There were also agreements noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The livestock coordinators to initially validate the learning site applicants for livestock before endorsing it to the ATI-CAR ✓ Trained BHAWs/BALA can be identified as BBOS ✓ Collected samples from Apayao, Ifugao and Kalinga can send samples for testing at the RADDL region 2 but must be coordinated first to RADDL-CAR. RADDL CAR will be in charged in coordinating in Region 2 ✓ On the conduct of the Barangay Biosecurity Officer, it will be conducted by province by the provincial veterinary office. PVOs with the Municipal Agriculture Office will prioritize barangays to undergo the training. Schedules will be March 11 – Paracelis, Mt. Province; March 12 and 16 – Benguet; March 17 – Apayao; March 18 – Tabuk City, Kalinga; March 19 – Ifugao; March 23 and 26 – Kalinga; and March 25 – Abra. <p>The consultation was conducted via Zoom on February 24, 2021.</p>



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Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for AFE (Support)	PAFES Meeting	<p>Provincial-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) Meeting, February 23, 2021, Aspulan Hall, DA-ATI-CAR</p> <p>As mandated by Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar, a flagship project on establishing Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) is being undertaken to boost agricultural modernization and industrialization in the Philippines. It aims to further strengthen the capability of LGUs to implement and integrate multiple agriculture and fisheries programs with the province as the center for operations given devolution of agricultural personnel and services at the local government level. PAFES will be a modality/ framework in the implementation of the DA banner programs in the provinces. It shall serve as the institutional arrangement in integrating the implementation of various programs and related support services.</p> <p>The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA) declares the policy of the State to promote science and technology as essential for national development and progress and that the State shall give priority for the utilization of research results through formal and non-formal education, extension, and training services.</p> <p>To jumpstart the process, the Regional Field Office (RFOs) were instructed to select at least one province as pilots in the implementation of PAFES. For CAR, Benguet was chosen as the pilot province and Benguet State University, as partner, shall led the Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA). The RRA aims to assess the resources and capabilities of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in Providing Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services.</p> <p>Specific objectives included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demographic and agricultural socio-economic profile of LGUs 2. Assessment of LGU Human Resource Skills and Capabilities 3. Local Plan and Budget for Agriculture and Fishery Sector 4. Agriculture and Fishery Programs and Projects <p>Activity undertaken during the meeting was the Review of the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the fund transfer from DA-RFO-CAR.</p>

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FOCUSED/PRIORITY PROGRAMS Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP)	Meeting	<p>Inter-Agency Meeting and Workshops</p> <p>In fulfillment to the membership of the country in the World Trade Organization (WTO) allowing free trade of rice and replacing the "Quantitative Restriction" (QR) with tariff, Republic Act 11203 (Rice Liberalization Law) was promulgated. Upon the passage of the law, the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) was crafted to aid local rice farmers amidst the liberalization of the Philippine rice trade. It shall be allotted with Php 10 billion annually for the next six years following its enactment in 2019.</p> <p>Specifically, ten percent (10%) of which is devoted to extension services of four different agencies, including ATI, PhilRice, PhilMech and TESDA to strategically raise the knowledge, attitude and skills of rice farmers in producing more rice at a reduced cost; increase their access to modern and science-based farming techniques; and extend the availability of free skills training programs.</p> <p>As such, being the lead in the training and extension component of the program, ATI-CAR harmonized and complemented the development of plans and strategies in the implementation of training interventions with its partner agencies on February 24, 2021 via Google Meet. Participants were 16 farmers, 5 representatives from government agencies, 4 ATI-CAR staff, and 1 AEW. Activities undertaken during the activity were the presentation of updates and accomplishments 2020; discussion of 2021 targets; presentation of action plans; and identification of issues and concerns in the implementation of extension programs.</p> <p>As one major concern, Kalinga LSA operators requested earlier updates and release of available FFS slots. Aside from increased number of farmers interested to enroll in the program, the operators also wanted their classes to be in sync with the actual farming activities in their respective areas. In response, TESDA assured that the issue will be raised in their national conference since the budget allocation for the year is yet to be confirmed.</p>



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Urban Agriculture Program	Monitoring Activity	<p style="text-align: center;">Data Gathering on the 50 Case Study Respondents for the 2nd Round of Program Beneficiary Progress Monitoring of the Urban Agriculture Program</p> <p>On February 22, 2021, the write-up for the RTC-CAR Urban Agriculture Program 2nd round of Program Beneficiary Progress Monitoring was submitted to PPD-ATI-CO through email address ppd.co@atida.gov.ph. Attached files were the Dummy Tables (Excel format) and Progress Monitoring Report (<i>Word and Portable Document Format (PDF) format</i>).</p> <p>General findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Respondents remarked that the print materials helped them to be more aware and be updated on the different farming activities. In addition, a respondent mentioned that with their willingness to learn more, they used the internet to search for more information. ✓ 38 (76%) of the respondents claimed that they were “<i>Very satisfied</i>” with the intervention provided to them as the intervention helped them to cope with the current situation that the country is facing at the present. Meanwhile, 11 of the 50 respondents uttered that they were satisfied with the intervention received and some added that the seeds provided were not enough to further sustain their gardening. Accordingly, some expressed that they had a problem on the production zucchini, majority of the respondent said that the plant failed to germinate, while others said that the plant failed to thrive after it was germinated. In addition, some expressed that the matured plant did not thrive nor bare any fruits. ✓ All of the respondents said that they were able to apply the practices and technologies learned to engage in urban agriculture. ✓ During the interview and monitoring survey, all of the 50 respondents mentioned that the provision of starter kits provided reduced their dependency in buying food item for consumption. With these interventions, respondents were very grateful to the programs of the government. ✓ Respondents are willing to continue their farming activities even after all the materials provided in the starter kits were all used up. <p>The Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 mandates Agricultural Training Institute to expand the existing programs for degree and non-degree scholarship in agriculture and fisheries for the youth. Through the years, ATI continuously develops and implements scholarship programs to provide educational opportunity to the deserving children of smallholder farmers and fishers.</p> <p>Last year, ATI implemented the <i>Educational Assistance for the Youth: Degree Courses in Agriculture and Agricultural Biosystems Engineering (EAsY Agri)</i>. The program aims to improve the competitiveness of the Philippine Agriculture, thereby contributing to the goals of food security and alleviation of the socio-economic status of families in the agriculture and fisheries sector. For the Center, 15 scholars were enrolled this month.</p>
Education Assistance for the Youth: Degree Courses in Agriculture and Agricultural Biosystems Engineering (EAsY Agri) Program	Scholarship	



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OTHER PROGRAMS/SPECIAL PROJECTS	Launching and Commitment Signing of Bantay ASF sa Barangay (BABay ASF) Program	<p>In this trying time, the global pandemic COVID-19 and African Swine Fever (ASF) hit the Philippines and threatens to cause a huge shock to international food trade. The rapid spread of these viruses increasingly affects the global food chain and slowly killing our swine industry.</p> <p>In response, the government, through the Department of Agriculture, has launched the "Bantay ASF sa Barangay or BABay ASF Program" as the focal strategy to control and prevent ASF which require collective efforts and commitment from the different stakeholders involve in swine production. Hence, the launching, commitment signing and consultation was undertaken at the Aspulan Hall, ATI-CAR, BSU Compound, La Trinidad, Benguet on February 23, 2021.</p> <p>Participants were DA-ATI-CAR staff, municipal/ provincial/ city livestock coordinators, and representatives from DA-RFO-CAR, NMIS, and BSU.</p>

Prepared by:


BRANDY K. LAOYAN
 M & E/Designated Report Officer
 Date: March 9, 2021

Noted by:

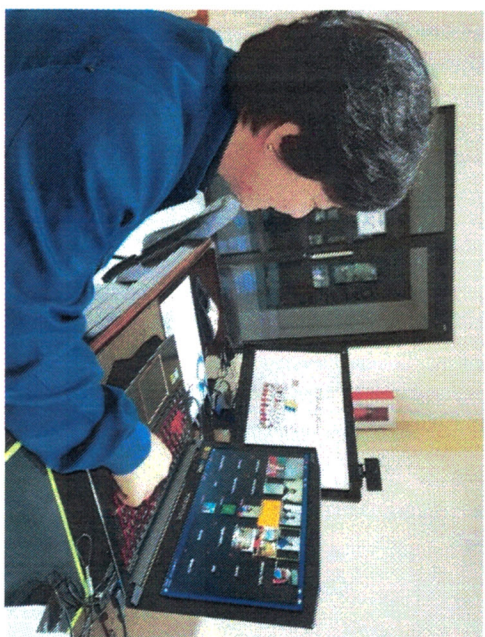

ARLENE L. FLORES
 Center Director/Division Chief
 Date: March 9, 2021



PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS:



Commitment signing for the Launching of Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program (BABay ASF)



RBO Focal Ms. Veronica B. Silyo presents the ATI-CAR RBO Program intervention plans for CY 2021 and budget proposals for CY 2022 to the Provincial and Municipal RBO Focals



TCD Arlene L. Flores delivering her welcome remark during the opening program of the RCEF Inter-agency Meeting



Rice Focal Resley Ann Sumedca presenting the RCEF 2020 Highlight of Accomplishments to the group



Consistent with the Annual Recognition of performing Sections/Units, certificate of recognition were awarded to CDMSS as the Top Performing Section for CY2020



Mr. Jener Dizon introducing one of the highlights of 2021 activity