

ACCESS

The Official Publication of the Agricultural Training Institute

More reasons for you to try
the Rice Crop Manager

The Escanos tell it all

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Farming knows no **GENDER**

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AgriDOC: Training for passion, producing more graduates

Iseult Kyllie T. Capacio

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna – The Agricultural Development Officers of the Community (AgriDOC) project continues to expand in training agricultural extension workers (AEWs) to be more passionate and competent in rendering services in rice extension.

From its first rollout in November 2014, training activities for a total of 22 batches have been launched, 11 of which were deployed in 2017 alone. This year, training activities were held specifically in the Cordillera Administrative Region, MiMaRoPa, and regions II, IV-A, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XIII. Four of these training produced 87 graduates, including the most recent one with 22 new AgriDOCs in Region IV-A.

October marked the culmination of this group's five-month journey through the AgriDOC program's six established modules: Be Transformed, AgriCool, AgriSurvivors, PalaYCheck and PalaYamanan v2.0, Rise with Rice, and Be RICEponsible.

These modules enable the AEWs to gain more knowledge on agriculture and rice science for development, and ensure that a greater percentage would be allotted for exposure and practical work. Apart from classroom sessions, activities like home-stays, field visits, and tours are included in the course.

During the second module "AgriCool", trainees would get the chance to converse with champion farmers, be exposed to ICT-based rice



ALL IN: Graduates recite the "Kredo ng AgriDOC" after being confirmed as new AgriDOCs during their graduation on October 11, 2017.

"Patuloy tayong mag-pursigi at manatili sana sa puso ng bawat isa ang pagnanais na maiangat ang antas ng pamumuhay ng ating mga magsasaka."

extension tools, and are introduced to agencies that they could partner with in development programs.

In the same way, the trainees are required to prepare a community develop plan (CDP) within their municipalities to see to it that knowledge gained during the program keeps on—yet another hope for a transformation in the graduates' very own communities. The implementation of the trainees' CDP will be monitored after six months.

"New techniques, projects, added knowledge, and working ethics will surely maximize our potential as AgriDOCs," remarked 23-year-old Abigail Peñalba, the youngest of the trainees, during their graduation.

"Bilang AgriDOC, patuloy tayong mag-pursigi at manatili sana sa puso ng bawat isa ang pagnanais na maiangat ang antas ng pamumuhay ng ating mga magsasaka," she added.

[As AgriDOCs, let us continue to persevere and keep in our hearts the desire to uplift the quality of life of our farmers.]

The first AgriDOC is a component of the Project IPaD (Improving Technology Promotion and Delivery Through Capability Enhancement of the Next-Gen of Rice Extension Professionals Other Intermediaries), implemented by the International Rice Research Institute, Philippine Rice Research, and ATI. It was then institutionalized to ATI in 2015, after the rollout of its second batch.



DA Secretary Manny Piñol buys some packs of dried fish on the first day of TienDA.

TienDA Farmers and Fisherfolk Outlet opens in ATI grounds

Catheryn M. Villorente

DILIMAN, Quezon City – Shoppers from Metro Manila flocked the stalls of around 90 farmers and agricultural organizations during the two-day “TienDA Farmers and Fisherfolk Outlet” at the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Compound.

Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture (DA), TienDA featured fresh fruits, vegetables, rice, and other agricultural and fishery products from different farms nationwide sold at farm gate prices. This new marketing scheme ensures that farmers’ products can be directly sold to the consumers in urban areas without the intervention of middlemen.

In the opening activity, DA Secretary Manny Piñol visited the stalls. Together with ATI Officer-In-Charge Director Luz Taposok and

Deputy Director Alfredo Aton, he tasted some of the featured delicacies including fried duck and *balot* from Candaba, Pampanga. He also bought some vegetables and other products on display.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Ma. Josefina Belmonte also graced the event and was welcomed by DA Undersecretary for Agribusiness and Marketing, and Regional Engagement Bernadette Romulo-Puyat. Vice Mayor Belmonte lauded the undertaking and remarked that the Quezon City government could also adopt the TienDA scheme by dedicating one weekend of a month for this endeavor.

Buyers were delighted for they saved a lot of money. One of them was Cathy Roldan from Manila who bought kilos of fruits and vegetables.

She said prices were a lot cheaper than that in their local market. Another buyer, Amy Corpuz, shared the same remark, adding that she intends to buy more especially the organic products and seafoods.

Other perks at TienDA were the free seeds and seedlings given by the Bureau of Plant and Industry. For every Php100 worth of purchase from any stall, buyers were given a Php100-peso stub. Accumulated stubs worth Php300 could be exchanged for free seeds or seedlings.

First day sales of the farmer-sellers reached to around Php600,000. More shoppers flocked on the last day of the event which coincided with the 2nd AgriTalk seminar where various topics on agriculture were discussed.

Training on hybrid rice held to support food security

Erika Z. Vizcarra

SAN MATEO, Isabela – In support to the intensified efforts of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to promote hybrid rice, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) conducted two batches of Training of Trainers on Hybrid Rice Production this year.

“Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol has shown interest in hybrid rice production and has given the directive to use hybrid rice seeds as well to achieve rice sufficiency,” ATI Focal Person on Rice Nemielyn Pangilinan said in the opening program of the second training held on August 7 to 12, 2017.

The second batch of trainees was composed of 25 Rice Program focal persons from DA Regional Field Offices and ATI Regional Training Centers (RTCs) from different regions in the country.

The training is aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of the participants with up-to-date technologies and farming techniques on hybrid rice production. Experts from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Branch in San Mateo, Isabela served as resource persons during the five-day training.

As part of the first module, OIC Branch Director Leo Javier talked about the situation of the rice industry in the Philippines and gave a glimpse of the Hybrid Rice Program in the country including hybrid rice seed production and hybrid rice commercial production.

Module 2 focused on the basic principles of hybrid rice while

Palaycheck System for Hybrid Rice Commercial Production was discussed for the third module, particularly on the system’s concept and principles, cycle, and variety and seed selection. A hands-on activity on the identification of hybrid from inbred seeds was also conducted for the participants.

Land preparation was also discussed followed by a practicum on crop establishment focusing on seedling management; nutrient management; water management; and pest management.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for rice were also touched on, as well as Mechanized Hybrid Rice Cultivation, Land Preparation and Crop Establishment Equipment, and Harvesting and Postharvest Equipment. A “learning

journey” at DA-Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center-Ilagan Experiment Station San Felipe, Ilagan City, Isabela capped off the training course.

“All in all, this training is a big help in capacitating us as we set out to share our learning in our respective regions to encourage more hybrid seed growers,” Joel Ryan Pagdato of ATI-RTC MiMaRoPa said.

Rice hybridization is seen as a viable technology for rice production. Hybrid rice is reported to yield higher than inbred by a minimum of 15 percent and has an average potential yield of 8.36 tons per hectare. With the two training activities conducted, the ATI hopes to help boost efforts in achieving food security and higher income for farmers.



Participants of the training learn up-to-date farming techniques on hybrid rice production from experts from PhilRice, San Mateo, Isabela. (Photo by ATI-RTC II)

ATI to mainstream urban gardening, edible landscaping

Marianne B. Antonio



ATI OIC Director Luz Taposok with Amy Perez and Marc Logan during the "Saktong Kwentuhan" segment of DZMM TeleRadyo.

QUEZON CITY – Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Officer-In-Charge Director Luz Taposok raised public awareness on urban gardening and edible landscaping during an interview with DZMM TeleRadyo hosts Amy Perez and Marc Logan in the program's "Saktong Kwentuhan" segment.

Taposok demonstrated the basic urban gardening principles including planting techniques, sunlight patterns as well as the types of money-saving containers. She elaborated the different economic, environmental, health, and social

benefits of the practice that consequently open opportunities for achieving sustainable agriculture. She also provided details on how to transform lawns into an edible landscape, noting that the said practices were promoted by former Agriculture Secretaries William Dar and Proceso Alcala and now being further expanded by Secretary Manny Piñol.

The general objective of these practices is to integrate farming into the lifestyle of the urban dwellers, according to the ATI OIC Director. These entail safe food systems, increased food availability, and hunger mitigation.

Moreover, Taposok took the opportunity to promote the "ATIng Gulayan" program which showcases good agricultural practices in urban gardening. She explained that the project is also adopted by the ATI training centers.

"Saktong Kwentuhan" features wide-ranging topics such as different lifestyle tips, safety measures, and relevant day-to-day information.

Agri agencies to develop training program on Food Safety Regulation

Jayvee P. Masilang

QUEZON CITY, Metro Manila – The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) is set to lead a team of officials from different concerned agencies in the development of a food safety regulation training program.

In preparation for this, the Department of Agriculture (DA) Food Safety Conference was held last August. Discussions focused on enhancing the knowledge and appreciation of the participants on their roles and responsibilities under the Food Safety Act.

Representatives from the Food Safety Regulatory Agencies, DA Regional Field Offices (RFOs), and ATI took part in the activity.



ATI training center directors, including International Training Center on Pig Husbandry Director Ruth Miclat-Sonaco, join the discussion on Institutional Profiling of Food Safety.

Lecturers like Dr. Alicia Lustre, Dr. Minda Manantan, Dr. Evelyn Esquejo, and other officials talked about the implementing rules and regulations of the Act. Topics focusing on the basic principles of food safety and food-borne illnesses which are currently in the news were also discussed.

"We must educate if we are going to regulate," Lustre stressed during her lecture. This is one of the key messages of the conference as the agencies contribute to what will be the content of the training program which the RFOs will cascade to

their respective areas of responsibility.

Professors from the University of the Philippines Los Baños also presented their studies highlighting institutional capacity and readiness to effectively implement the Food Safety Act.

The conference served as preparatory activity for the Capacity Needs Enhancement Workshop—an avenue for the development of a standardized DA training program towards food safety.

Taposok sees positive future with AgRiDOCs

Marianne B. Antonio

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – Despite all crisis the country is facing, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Officer-In-Charge Director Luz Taposok expressed an optimistic outlook for the Filipinos' welfare through the efforts of the next batch of Agricultural Development and Extension Officers of the Community or AgRiDOCs.

In her speech during the initial ceremonies of the training program, Taposok remarked, "It makes me happy to think that even with the crisis and calamities happening in the country, there are still people like you who choose to serve others. People who make consistent efforts to improve themselves to deliver excellent extension services."

Taposok stressed that community transformation is the main goal of the AgRiDOCs. According to her, they will be entrusted to be the agents who would invigorate the agricultural extension system and help make more farming communities sustainable.

The OIC Director also lauded the participants for responding to the call of the farmers and fishers as they need to be updated on the latest agricultural technologies, the advanced but nature-inspired farming practices.

She further stated, "At the end of this training program you will be made competent in science-based and locally appropriate strategies for managing and adapting rice-based farming systems towards competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience."

Taposok, as well, called on the AgRiDOCs to consistently renew their commitment to development work. "Always remember why you even started to serve when you face difficulties. You know deep within that nothing is as rewarding as knowing that you are able to shape lives and improve their social situation; that being able to contribute in nation-building gives you the sense of purpose," she said.

The regional roll-out of the AgRiDOC started last July at ATI Cordillera Administrative Region at the Benguet State University compound in this town.

“Even with the crisis and calamities happening in the country, there are still people like you who choose to serve others. People who make consistent efforts to improve themselves to deliver excellent extension services.”



OIC Director Luz Taposok delivers an inspirational message for the participants of the regional roll-out of the AgRiDOC which started in July 2017.

FROM HIT & MISS *to Modern Farming*

Janine L. Cailo

"It's just the two of us in this house," says Herminigilda, also known to her friends as Imee. "Our three children have already finished their studies and have families of their own," she continues. With 36 years of marriage, Herminigilda and Javier Escano, both employees at the local government of Sta. Maria, Laguna, supported the education of their children through rice farming. "Farming helped us tremendously," the couple claim.



Javier and Herminigilda Escano work hand in hand in managing their leased 1.2 ha rice farm.

LOVE FOR FARMING

Wife Knows Best

Farming was never new to Imee and Javier. Imee recalls how she helped her father on their farm when she was a teenager. "It became a habit to help my father in our farm when I was younger. I helped in tending the rice paddies and clearing them from water lilies," she narrates. Meanwhile, Javier learned how to farm from his parents. "We've been a family of farmers for a long time," says Javier. When the two of them got married, it was then no surprise that they ventured into rice farming as a source of income.

At present, they lease a 1.2 hectares (ha) rice area in Brgy. Masipac, a 20-minute motorcycle ride away from their home in Brgy. Bagong Pook, both in Sta. Maria, Laguna. Even with their 8AM-5PM office schedule, they make sure to have ample time to visit their farm early in the morning before they go to their work and during weekends. "There are three coconut trees planted in our rice field and they somewhat serve as a landmark," she shares.

"We were not following or using any planting techniques back then. We would just roughly estimate the amount of fertilizer to use on the crops and just planted any rice variety we got our hands on. As expected, our yield was very low," she says.

In 2014, however, their practice changed when the agricultural extension workers from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Sta. Maria introduced Rice Crop Manager (RCM) to them. "The technicians at the MAO often invite me to attend farmers' meetings and trainings," she shares. "It was there that we were introduced to RCM."

From a total of 12,800 ha of farmland in Sta. Maria, Laguna, 1,361.6 ha is devoted to rice production. RCM is one of the services provided by the MAO that aims to increase the income of the farmers by calculating the amount of fertilizer and recommending appropriate crop management.

Using a personal computer, laptops, smart phone or tablet, Elenita Balela, an agricultural technologist from the local government unit provides a one-page RCM recommendation for rainfed and irrigated rice farmers every season with the help of Nilo Ortalla, a local farmer technician who underwent a Training Course on the Use and Operation of RCM conducted by Agricultural Training Institute Region IV-A.

Laguna has a total of 250 rice farmers registered as RCM users. They regularly receive short message service or SMS or calls to monitor the progress of their rice farming activities.

Just like the other farmers, Imee doubted RCM at first, but eventually gave it a try. "I was dubious at first because it hadn't made sense to me that you would yield more by using less fertilizer," she explains. She later on talked to her husband about trying RCM.

As a traditional farmer himself, Javier was also skeptical about the technology as he based his practice from his parents' way of applying fertilizer twice until they harvest. Still unconvinced, he let his wife manage the farm and decide on what variety of rice to plant and the fertilizer to use, including the amount and the frequency of application. He shares, "I let her decide on everything with the help of the RCM. Whatever she says, I would just agree."

In this story, the wife turned out to be right all along. "I was startled when we followed the recommendation on the amount of fertilizer to be used on our crops. Per RCM recommendation, we were advised to apply fertilizer thrice until harvest. I told her that was a lot of fertilizer. She said, 'No, we'll just use two sacks for the first application,'" he narrates.

"The Department of Agriculture (DA) provided specific amount of fertilizer to be used per application. When I compared the amount we used with the traditional way we were doing it, I was amazed. It was far less than what we were used to do. We were curious if using less fertilizer would result in greater yield and we were shocked by the result."

Javier had been doubtful at first on the outcome but they continued to use the RCM. "I didn't tell her that I was doubtful of the RCM. I thought that it could just be the timing of the season that caused the increase in harvest so we tried it again. We continuously followed the RCM recommendations," he explains. After another planting season of using the RCM, Javier admits that "my wife does know best."

GOOD HARVEST

Imee makes sure that they follow the recommendations from the RCM. "I take good care of the RCM recommendations that are given to us, especially the ones that indicate the amount of fertilizer we should use. Furthermore, we also receive text messages from the DA. It's like a reminder in case we forget." Javier, on the other hand, admires his wife for being resourceful and aggressive. "I was surprised that my wife knows when to plant the rice seedlings, when to put the fertilizer on the crops, the number of sacks of fertilizers required, even the kind of fertilizer to be used. It turns out that she has been using the RCM guides all along," he quips, chuckling. "You can never go wrong," he adds.

Since 2014, Imee and Javier have seen a significant increase of harvest on their 1.2 ha rice field. In their last dry season for 2017, they harvested a net of 152 cavans. Now, Javier believes on RCM. "It has been proven effective with our recent harvest, showing increase in yield and in terms of cost-effectivity," he proudly says.

Good Example

Aside from the high value seeds that they receive from the MAO, the RCM is one of the services that they were able to avail. She emphasized that the increment of their harvest is also because of the effort of the MAO. Every now and then, Imee consults with the MAO on what variety of rice and what fertilizer to use as well as the management during land preparation up to harvesting.

From being doubtful, Imee and Javier are now proud beneficiaries of the RCM. When asked if they would still want to go back to their old ways, Javier answers in a heartbeat, "No. Why should we when we are already getting high yield and saving more than before?" he insists. No looking back, Imee and Javier are very much thankful to the RCM and are looking forward to another good harvest.

Broadening Gender Perspective on Rice Farming

Fil Victor A. Babanto

“I could still recall how eager I was to help my mother in the farm instead of playing with my childhood friends,”

Melinda said with a grateful heart.

Melinda “Inday” Ferer, 49 years old, is one of the most promising women in rice farming in Barangay Manat, Trento, Agusan del Sur. She is a good example of being empowered despite prevailing gender stereotypes when it comes to farming and agriculture. She proved that women are potential contributors in the total labor inputs in rice production.

Inday started farming in 1975 at the early age of seven. Despite having brothers in the family, Inday strived to spend productive days in the farm rather than engaging in children’s games. Together with her mother, she tilled 1.3 hectares of rice field and half hectare for vegetable production. Inday also raised livestock and poultry. She took good care of their sows and piglets which became her favorite pastime.

Farming was their sole source of income, so Inday devoted much of her time assisting her parents which eventually sparked her passion in agriculture. At a young age, she considered herself grasping for success in rice farming.

Inday is now married to Aquino Ferer and they have eight children. The dual task of being a mother and a woman-farmer was not that easy for Inday. She had to manage her time wisely between her family and the farm. It never stopped her, though, and she did not need to rely on her husband in

terms of the management of the farm. She became a hands-on mom and a hardworking farmer at the same time. Nurturing a big family fueled her to work harder in the farm and practice diversified farming. Aside from rice, she also grew vegetables and fruit trees (mangosteen, banana, coconut), and also ventured into tilapia farming.

Initially a user of commercial insecticides, Inday switched to organic farming in 2011 for healthy and safe produce. “In organic agriculture, production cost is low but yield is high,” Inday shared.

Inday goes out of her shell as a rice farmer as she also became a member of the irrigators’ association and farmers’ association as well as a barangay agricultural worker. She is proactive and participative in the activities of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Trento.

Her endearing passion in rice farming made her a Farmer Innovator under the Seed Production Participatory, a project of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) for two years. She also became a recipient of a livelihood project of the Agricultural Training Institute.

A woman’s potential capability in rice farming does not only reflect in her labor input, but also on how she served and assisted her community. Inday added that women farmers are more open-minded to new ideas and technologies.

“I share what I learn because I am blessed to have attended training activities and seminars. Sharing those lessons is a way of magnifying their potentials in farming and considering the capabilities of women in agriculture,” Inday concluded.



FROM ~~VIOLATORS~~

TO CULTIVATORS

Noemi Beth G. Macario

I used to be afraid to visit a jail. This perception has been formed by the movies that I saw where the jail is portrayed as a place of chaos. However, since we at the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Northern Mindanao conducted a Season-long Training on Urban Vegetable Gardening inside the El Salvador City Jail, that fear has ebbed a little.

When Mariel Dacapias, a friend and colleague at ATI Region I, invited us to visit the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail (ISPJ) in Vigan City citing that it is an ATI-Accredited Learning Site, I was more excited than fearful. I wanted to learn from them so that we can apply it in Region X. When I entered the premises, my eye was caught by a sign on the second gate. The sign says "From Violators to Cultivators, The Organic Way." And when I looked around, their garden just took my breath away. Our visit was unscheduled but we were graciously entertained. We were even served the famous Royal Bibingka.

The place is not like any other jail that I have seen. The surroundings are clean and free of litter. The people seemed happy and content. The buildings are well-maintained and clean, a tribute to the strong support of Gov. Ryan Singson. The amenities are commendable with shower rooms inside the compound. While the population has increased tremendously due to drug-related cases, the cells were spacious and the inmates have decent (double-decked) beds.

One side of the compound and even at the back are gardens planted with various vegetables that are organically grown.

The young and amiable warden, Raymond Tabios said that the inmates were trained by the ATI and the Provincial Agriculture Office. They make concoctions which they use in their garden. They even produce mushroom. We were told that buyers are flocking the jail because they are assured of the quality of the vegetables.

The inmates were very friendly. They even showed us one of their famous income-generating projects—making flowers from beads. They proudly informed us that their products are already being displayed in trade fairs in Manila. Of course, I brought with me some of their products. It would have been nice to buy a lot since their prices are affordable (ranging from Php100 to over Php1,000) but I still have a long way to go.

As an Ilocano, I am proud of the ISPJ in Vigan and the officials who support/manage it. I am also proud to be with the ATI as it continues to develop inspiring Learning Sites. Congratulations to ATI Region I Center Director Roger Evangelista and staff. I would have loved to show pictures of the visit, but alas, cameras are not allowed. You just have to visit them and see for yourselves.

ATI caps off midyear planning workshop, releases 3 new publications

Iseult Kyllie T. Capacio



OIC Director Luz Taposok and Deputy Director Alfredo Aton, together with the Institute's division chiefs and training center superintendents, unveil the ATI's three new publications. (Photo by Daniel Nilo)

DILIMAN, Quezon City – Enjoining representatives from its network of training centers and its central office, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) conducted its Midyear Performance Review and Planning Workshop to evaluate first semester accomplishments and realign plans for the second half of the year.

The workshop served as a venue for the reporting of updates about the implementation of the agency's programs, activities, and services. Discussed as well were the agency's new thrusts and directions as reported by Officer-In-Charge Director Luz Taposok where she prodded the agency to continue to push for development in extension services through a holistic approach, "If we advance the farm, we should also advance the home and the entire family."

The workshop was instrumental for the improvement of the ATI

training centers' work plans for the latter half of 2017. Additionally, it paved the way for the directorate and training center officials to discuss concerns, reminders, and agreements to improve their services to the stakeholders. Part of the agreement is to strengthen linkage with research and development agencies and institutions, which the training center officials think will help address the overlapping functions between these offices and the ATI.

The group also discussed updates on its extension support program for the 22 poor provinces in the country. To expand the scope of the program, the ATI is looking into accommodating proposal-based projects from regions not included in the identified provinces, particularly those with 4th to 6th class municipalities.

Reports on the updated cost standards, the Harmonized Merit

and Rewards System for Extension Workers, and the ATI Scorecard were also presented.

Also highlighting the activity was the launch of the ATI's three new publications which ranged from promotional materials to technical documents. These are the Learning Site Photobooks for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao; the Grant System Manual for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension; and a Compendium on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies and Practices in Central Luzon.

The two-day workshop was held in August at Serrano Hall, ATI building. Attendees included chiefs, planning officers, monitoring and evaluation officers of the ATI training centers, as well as the directorate, division chiefs, section chiefs, and selected staff from the Central Office.

Top rice scientists, farmers recognized during ASEAN Golden Anniversary

Marianne B. Antonio

METRO MANILA – As part of the various activities for the grand commemoration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) 50th Founding Anniversary, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Officer-In-Charge Director Luz Taposok attended the awarding ceremony of the ASEAN Rice Science and Technology Ambassadors to show support to the sustainable agriculture movers in the southeast region.

Dr. Sailila Abdula of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and Nemencio Concepcion, a trailblazing smallholder farmer from Bulacan, were among the top rice scientists and farmers recognized. Rice scientists from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam were likewise

awarded.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), together with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), conducted the ceremony to honor the importance of agriculture and scientific research in the ASEAN context.

Prior to the said event, Taposok also joined the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) led by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano.

In his speech, Cayetano stated that the ASEAN cooperation continues to solve critical international issues. "In the true ASEAN way, we were able to passionately argue our national interest but at the same time, put first

the regional interest and come out as friends with found solutions to very sensitive problems," he remarked.

The participants of the program witnessed the ASEAN handshake among the ministers as well as the unveiling of the painting presenting the signing of the ASEAN Declaration on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The opening program of the AMM was held last August 5, 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center Plenary Hall in Pasay City while the ASEAN Rice Science and Technology Ambassadors awarding ceremony happened last August 7, 2017 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Convention Hall in Quezon City.

On scaling up KAS: ATI, WPU partner for 21-day training

Angelica Marie T. Umali



One of the facilitators from the Puerto Princesa School of Arts and Trades checks the output of a participant during the workshop on TM1.

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan – Following the training and assessment on national competency, Rice Machinery Operations and Maintenance (RMO NC II), the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Western Philippines University (WPU) have partnered again for another training. This time, for the Training on Trainers Methodology Level1 (TM1).

The training aimed to enhance the knowledge, attitude, skills (KAS), and work values of the RMO NC II graduates in accordance to the prevailing standards of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector.

With this, around 24 participants took part in the 21-day TM1 training not only to become assessors on RMO, but also as trainers.

Moreover, the training involved competency performance assessment in the areas of instructional delivery and facilitation, and maintenance of training resources and facilities. Participants who passed the assessment were awarded Technical Education and Skills Development Authority TM1 certificates.

TM1 started in August and ended in September at the WPU Puerto Princesa Campus.

RICE CROP MANAGER

Uses results of research and existing knowledge to provide farmers in irrigated and rainfed lowlands with 'precise' field- and farmer-specific recommendations.



Used by extension workers, crop advisers, and service providers to interview a farmer



Can be accessed through laptops, smart phones, and tablets



Recommendations only apply to one cropping season

HOW TO USE



1 Access RCM through web browser at <http://webapps.irri.org/p/h/rcm>



2 Allow RCM to load and bookmark the site



3 Accomplish set of questions online or offline. Provide mobile number to receive reminders via text



4 Submit online for automatically calculated recommendation



5 Download and print the recommendation

BENEFITS

INCREASE IN YIELD



INCREASE IN INCOME

(P4,500/HA/CROPPING)

REACH MORE FARMERS WITH EXTENSION SERVICE



SAMPLE RECOMMENDATION

Rice Crop Manager Philippines Version 2.01

Reference Number: 966169

Petsa ng paglikha: October 26, 2016

Pangalan ng magsasaka: Test Mario

Kondisyon ng bukid: may patubig

Pangalan ng bukid: Malapit Sa Irigasyon

Paraan ng pagtatanim: manwal na paglilipat-tanim

Lokasyon: San Miguel, Baras, Rizal, Region IV-A

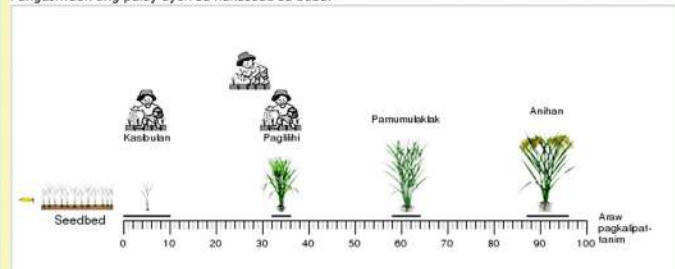
Barayti: NSIC Rc114H (Mestiso 2)

Petsa ng pagpupunla: October 26, 2016

Tandaan: Gamitin itong rekomendasyon para sa **Okubre** 2016-17 lang.

Mas mataas na ani para sa 1.5 ektarya: 146 sako na may 46 kilo kada sako, 4.5 t/ha, (mga 3.9 t/ha sa 14% MC)

Pangasiwaan ang palay ayon sa nakasaad sa baba:



Magbunot ng damo bago maglagay ng abono.

Maglagay ng abono ayon sa nakasaad sa baba:

Yugto ng paglaki ng palay	APL*	Dami ng abono para sa 1.5 ektarya	
		14-14-14 with sulfur	urea
Kasibulan	Basal to 10	4 sako	---
Paglilahi	32-36	---	3 sako

* APL - araw pagkalipat-tanim

Piniling organikong pataba ng magsasaka, 6 sako na may 50 kilo kada sako

Sumangguni sa PalayCheck para sa maayos na pamamahala ng bukid.. <http://www.pinoyrice.com>



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