More Than Just a Training

by: Erlan D. Pasana

Development on April 26-28, 2017 at Brgy. Tilik, Lubang, Occidental Mindoro, we witnessed how our participants hurriedly went home after the training to prepare and join the celebration.

At night, no one could tell that the women we trained a while ago were dancing in groovy steps and skipping in the loudness of music. We saw in their eyes the long hidden loudness of music. We saw in their eyes the long hidden happiness that no one could ever take away from them.

Their amusing laughter and spectacular dance moves confirmed that Lubang is more than just nature's tranquil haven - it is a blessed paradise of hospitality and tradition.

I decompose it for about one month, and I’ll just add raw materials to my compost,” Tadeo expressed.

When asked about how he managed the pest and diseases in corn, he said that he practiced detasselling technique to control corn borers as part of integrated pest management for corn.

“One of the techniques I learned from the TOT is the detasselling technique which is done by removing the tassel of a corn plant, one row in every three rows. Also, since I am familiar with the insect pests and beneficial insects, I use it as one of control measures in pest and diseases management of corn,” he shared.

“Although I wanted to apply other techniques like the trichogramma, I have no known sources of it in our area,” he reluctantly added.

But Tadeo said that from his farming practices using the available resources he has, he was able to harvest fifty percent more than the yield he has been harvesting before. He also earns from other cash crops which he planted simultaneously to the corn or palay.

In addition, according to Tadeo, the most important realization the training has taught him is how to use the land continuously and productively.

Tadeo the Expert

Tadeo proudly shared that his learnings were not kept to himself and his farm only. He was also tapped by their Mangyan leaders to teach his fellow Mangyans of the technologies he learned from his school and ATI. However, things were not easy for Tadeo. The desire of their fellow Mangyans to hold on to their own culture has made him the target of discrimination.

Even so, he said that he could not give up just because some Mangyan farmers do not like or neglect the technology he imparts. “It is difficult to teach indigenous people because they are very cultural. They do not easily accept technologies because they still do what our ancestors taught or what our traditions dictate,” he challengingly confessed.

Nonetheless, his driving force to continue sharing his learnings were still ignited because some of his fellow Mangyan farmers accepted his learned new ways of farming and gradually adopted his techniques. In fact, some of them visited his farm to know his technology in actual.

When asked if he is compensated with what he does, he smilingly answered, “Sometimes, it’s in my own expense, but sometimes, they shoulder my transportation expenses. It is prohibited to us Mangyans to accept payment for our deeds, but donations are allowed,” he narrated.

Tadeo the Dreamer

Tadeo’s goals go beyond making farming more productive. He wants to introduce to his fellow Mangyans the modern way of farming without sacrificing their culture and traditions.

He also aspires if possible, for every Mangyan farmer to attend ATI’s trainings to learn new technologies and experience what he had experienced. Tadeo wants to instill to other Mangyans’ mind that lowland people is not as bad and discriminating as they think they are.

“Also, in my perspective, as long as I help them, I am totally satisfied with it. I have nothing to lose, because in the end, I know I will gain something just like the bible verse in Luke 6:35-36 said “... do good to them, and lend to them, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.” Tadeo claimed.

Perhaps, for us Mangyans, what we really need is the courage to face other people and openness to limitless possibilities and technologies. Because I think, even the Indigenous People can also strive in farming just like what the lowland people do."

Training sessions are done thrice a week for almost five months.

Moreover, the participants are guided by its curriculum which consists of six modules, namely, BeTransformed, AgriCool, AgriSurvivors, PalaYcheck and PalaYamanan v2.0, Rise with Rice, and Be RiCepossible.

“We employ 40% theory and 60% practice in an enjoyable, interactive and participative manner for you to be equipped with necessary skills and values that an AgriDOC should possess,” Pat Andrew Barrientos, ATI - MiMaRoPa Center Director said during the opening program. “We are hoping that each and every one of you will be true change agents of farm community transformation once you completed this course;” Barrientos added.

After the season-long training, the AgriDOCS are expected to be the catalysts of development with strong sense of mission towards helping transform rice-based farming communities towards competitiveness, sustainability, resiliency and likewise respond better for the current and future challenges of agriculture in MiMaRoPa region.
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5. Climate Change is a big issue. This activity project about climate change is a good start to show off our people what we can do about climate change. We are also glad that different agencies are involved in the planning and pledged their support throughout the implementation.
   Caesar Makaya
   MDI/ROH/CDE
   Romblon, Romblon

6. I learned more basic information about organic farming and enjoyed the site and school visits. I'm glad that training like this exists for the benefit of individuals who share the same interest in organic farming.
   Nativi Hence
   AGREA Representative
   Training on Early Child Care:
   Building the Future in Organic Farming
   April 25-27, 2017, Magsaysay, Marinduque

Cover Story

"An A-Maize-ing Tale of a Mangyan Farmer"

Gary F. B. Bandalこともある
CHUM Member
Training on Organic Agriculture
with Team Building (Proposal-Based Training),
June 3-7, 2017, Boholabong, Oriental Mindoro

Hindi lang organic agriculture ang natutunan ko kundi ang pagmamahal sa kalikasan.
Nagpapalaki po ako sa mga taong gumanay at nagluto sa amin, maayos at masalang maiintindihan ang kahalagahan ng pagasa sa kaya naman nito. Naming ilong naunawaan.

Marami po kaming natutunan sa pagasa.
Bagong talat po ay karper-pakipasa.
Wala ko nang akong mga kapwa-participante sa tanong ay magsasalia para sa tanong ay umutusan.
Laos na ang ATI. Sana hindi tayo ang una at maiing pagasa.

Lumokona Flore,
Brig. Topic, Boholadat Mindanao,
Training on Gender and Development
(Hapag-a ng Skills and Livelihood)
Learning Beyond Prison Walls

by: Erland D. Pasana

"Being in jail did not stop me from learning. Indeed, it makes me even more determined to keep on learning," said John Mark Forcado.

Forcado is one of the 60 detainees in Odiongan District Jail who enrolled in the School-on-the-Air (SOA) Program on Organic Agriculture (OA). He took the chance to learn for believing that he could apply all he learned from the Pantribong Ama (OA) Coordinator Fetalver and ROF A President Solis.


The event was graced by Odiongan District Jail Warden, Senior Inspector Jeorge Allan Soriano, Provincial Organic Coordinator, Al S. Fetalver and President of Romblon Organic Farmers Association (ROFA), Alejandro G. Solis, Jr.

We are also stunned with the gorgeous town belles and escorts under the hand-carried bamboo arches adorned by fragrant flowers during the colorful santacruzan. "Bulaklakan" is not only a month of pleasure but a festival for a cause.

It is a kind of fund raising gala, wherein the owner of a flower is boogieing on the dance floor with the mellow sound of flute where everyone could bid for any amount. As a prize, the highest bidder could take home an extravagant reward.

While the flute continues to rejoice its magical pitch, they are also cheering for the good purpose of the festival. The money they raised from the flower bidding will be used for the development of their barangay.

They are certain that they are not only helping the people in the community but the island as a whole.

Come and experience the rich and colorful tradition of the locals. Like us, have a cultural great time in Lubang Island!

Sr. Insp. Soriano together with TCS I Jugno, OA Coordinator Fetalver and ROFA President Solis award the certificate of completion to the participant-detainee.
New Breed of Rice Extensionists

The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) - Regional Training Center - MiMaRoPa has started the regional roll-out of training program entitled “Enabling AgriDoc: A New Breed of Agricultural Development and Extension Officers of the Community” on May 31, 2017 at ATI-MiMaRoPa, Barcenaga, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

AgriDOC is implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and ATI in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). It is under the project, Improving Technology Promotion and Delivery through Capability Enhancement of Next-Gen Rice Extension Professionals and Other Intermediaries (iPAD).

Also, it is one of the major components of iPAD which is designed for rice extensionists to help revitalize the Philippine agricultural extension system by developing and equipping new breeds of extension workers.

Now, the ATI-RTC MiMaRoPa has 17 trainees undergoing intensive and experiential trainings that will strengthen their technical competence, nurture values relevant to development work and sharpen their leadership, communication and entrepreneurial skills.

Congratulations to Bernard Joseph Fadriquela and Daniel Bonquin, both 4H members from MiMaRoPa who got the 1st and 2nd academic awards, respectively, during the 75-day Pre-Departure Orientation Course of Young Filipino Farmers Training Program in Japan (YFFTPJ).

Fadriquela and Bonquin together with Marlo Manimtim (also 4H from MiMaRoPa) and other 4H members from other regions will go to Japan to learn technical knowledge and skills on agricultural and cooperative management from Japanese farmers. They will undergo the 50-day Home-Stay Module with the guidance of identified local host farmers through hands-on farm activities, visits to other farms and agricultural institutions, to include also conversational Nihongo and physical fitness.

Said 4H members were graduates of YES Scholarship of ATI-MiMaRoPa.
and they would judge him. He also found himself under-equipped in terms of facing the challenges of the new millennium.

"We were four IPs who attended the TOT. At first, I was nervous mingling with the lowlanders because I am an indigenous person while they are very advanced in terms of knowledge and technologies," Tadeo shared.

He also expressed his fears why he did not want to attend the TOT. "Once I learned that I will be attending the TOT, I told myself that we will learn nothing because I thought that all the topics will be discussed in English. We have no choice but to attend because the decision of our tribal leader seems final and we have a great respect of his decision," he confessed.

With the eagerness to fully understand the topics in TOT, Tadeo requested to the training management to translate all the lessons into Tagalog. "I told them that they did not feel spoken, Tadeo said because I am an indigenous person while they are very advanced in terms of facing the challenges of the new millennium.

Hence, during training, all materials and presentations were all in Tagalog. Because of being at ease with the language being spoken, Tadeo said that they did not feel neglected or feel the gap for they are IPs. Tadeo learned to deal and bridge the cultural differences among his co-participants. He also made peers which they called among his co-participants. He and bridge the cultural differences

Tadeo learned to deal with the TOT, Tadeo realized that even just one area can be planted over and over again and apply different technologies to make it productive."I practice the corn technologies that I have learned from the TOT. I even applied the system of intercropping vegetables and crop rotation of corn, beans and rice in my farm. To further maximize the potential of my farm, I complimented it with native pigs, goat and chicken," he cheerfully said. With this system, he saw the importance of having other sources of income while waiting for his main crops to be harvested.

Because of the TOT, Tadeo has broken the old stereotype of farming. From Mangyan’s traditional way of farming, he started practicing the technologies he learned from TOT in his farm in Sitio Tamisan, Poyopoy, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro.

"Due to financial constraint, I make my own fertilizer. I mix banana stalk, madre de cacao and manure."

Gained friends which do not look at us as low class society. Sometimes, when we have assignments or presentation, they volunteered to help me," he recounted. He also narrated that the field school helped him a lot to thoroughly understand the technology used in corn production.

"We have a corn site where we are tasked to manage it. From there, I learned a lot from land preparation, cultural and even pest and diseases management up to harvesting. Further, they have taught us micro-teaching and how to deal with other people. With this TOT, I can say that we make soil productive even though we are focused cultivating in just one area. You just have to practice right timing and apply appropriate technologies," Tadeo proudly stated.

Throughout the program, Ruben P. Jugno, Training Center Superintendent I, motivated the participant’s to continue to learn because it is how they can extend quality services to the clientele. ‘Hindi dahil matagal ka na sa serbisyo ay alam mo na lahat. Kailangan pa rin nating patuloy na mag-evaluate at mag-improve na, maging ang mga drivers ay naging trainer.‘"- Nanette M. Rosales (Panelist)

"Maganda itong nag-improve na, maging ang mga drivers ay nakapagsalalim sa unahan. Pinapatunayan lang ninyo na kaibigin sa isang pagtakbo, narito sa mga tao. Sana magtuloy-tuloy ang pagiging trainer."- Medardo Caringal, TOT corn facilitator, Tadeo Saragno, participant, representative from Mayors’ Office of Rosario and Pat Andre Barrientos, ATI MiMaRoPa Center Director during TOT graduation in 2013

Part of the workshop is conducting a training needs survey and analysis among the co-participants. They also developed training work plan, a comprehensive training design and module delivery plan.

Moreover, the main highlight of the training was the presentation of participants about ATI. In just 6 minutes, they have to market or introduce ATI in an innovative and creative manner. Everyone was nervous because it is time-bound and they have no ample time to prepare. They only had an overnight to prepare and gather data.

But the perseverance and courage remained as the staff individually delivered their presentations before the panel.

In his impression, Supremo Caranzo, driver in ATI MiMaRoPa, expressed that he was grateful that they (driver) were also invited to attend the training. "Maganda itong ginanap na pagpaparangalan na ito dahil parepareho na naging mga tao. Sana magtuloy-tuloy ang training na ganito para masanay hanggang sa sama-sama tayo sa training para hindi lang kayo kundi karni ay maging kabahagi din ninyo," he shared.

Cover Story

News

Blended Course on Training Management: Adhering to the "Tatak ATI"

by: Jezell dl. dela Cruz

Meanwhile, Pat Andrew B. Barrientos, Center Director, challenged them to show what they’ve got when it comes to training facilitation. He also said that this training is one of the trainings which the staff needed the most. In addition, he emphasized that as ATI staff, everyone is expected to become a trainer in a real sense of a word.

"Tatak ATI"
The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in MiMaRoPa inaugurates its Center for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (CAFE) Hall and initiates ground breaking ceremony for dormitory.

“We have to help our farmers and fishers to become more competent through improving their knowledge and technical skills. This will only be possible if we will provide them adequate facilities and integrated system of education that will help them improve their socioeconomic condition and quality of life,” ATI OIC-Director Luz A. Taposok expressed.

OIC-Director Taposok even mentioned the partnership of ATI and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the establishment of farm schools in every municipality in the MIMAROPA region. She stressed that these farm schools will educate and encourage more farmers to venture in entrepreneurship and marketing while working in their farm.

“Upgrading Facilities Towards a Better Agriculture”

by: Erlan D. Pasana

Pat Andrew Barrientos, ATI MiMaRoPa Center Director (L), Luz A. Taposok, OIC-Director of ATI (C), Sen. Cynthia Villar (R) during the ground breaking ceremony of the Center’s dormitory.

Meanwhile, Sen. Cynthia A. Villar highlighted that farm schools will not only serve as a venue for farmers to learn various techniques in production, but will also enable small farm families increase and maximize their income to uplift their way of living.

There should be continuity of all the trainings for our farmers. They are not workers, they are entrepreneurs. As businessmen, they have to make their business earn. Through farm schools, we will train our farmers to produce more using different techniques in farming. ”

Moreover, Taposok stated that ATI will continue to develop learning venues that are conducive for its beneficiaries. She also expressed commendations for ATI-MiMaRoPa headed by its Center Director Pat Andrew B. Barrientos for the efforts in realizing the project.

“You always have my full support. More infrastructures mean more trainings. This is also part of ATI’s branding to extend excellent services not only to farmers and fishers but to all our beneficiaries,” she said.

Also present during the event were Assistant Regional Director of TESDA - MiMaRoPa Edwin Andoyo, Oriental Mindoro Governor Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Naujan Mayor Atty. Mark Marcos, Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology President Dr. Jessie Zamora and representatives from various TESDA accredited farm schools in MiMaRoPa.

The said activity was held on June 15, 2017 in ATI-MiMaRoPa Barcenaga, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.
In order to help vulnerable families to recover and restore food security for their families and communities, ATI-MiMaRoPa launched livelihood opportunities to 25 farm families in Brgy. Macalas, Romblon, Romblon held on June 28, 2017.

This project is part of the Climate Resilient Livelihood Project which aims to operationalize a responsive training and extension initiatives that will contribute to building a climate-resilient Agriculture and Fishery livelihood and communities amidst the challenges of climate change and an integrated ASEAN economy.

As part of livelihood program, beneficiaries have standard farm layout where they take part in real time and participatory demonstrations on climate-resilient agricultural technologies.

Moreover, the Officials of Barangay Macalas volunteered to monitor the livelihood project from time to time.

In addition, Ms. Roseanne D. Nilo, Climate Change Focal Person deepened their understanding about the program and their responsibilities as beneficiaries through a consultation.

At the end of the activity, ATI distributed the agricultural inputs and farm tools to beneficiaries. Also, ATI representatives, recipients as well as partner agencies signed the project commitment and contract service agreement.

Beneficiary of livelihood project signs her contract service agreement during the Launching of Climate Resilient Livelihood Program.

They congratulated the participants and hoped that ATI will continue to provide trainings to the detainees for them to be equipped on the latest technologies in farming.

At the same time, a mass graduation for SOA was also conducted in the Province of Romblon.

Highlight of the activity was the recognition of outstanding student and awarding of certificates to the graduates. Aside from medals and certificate, different farm tools were also raffled during the graduation.

Moreover, three municipalities, namely, Odiongan, San Andres and San Agustin were given cash prizes for their efforts of establishing Technology Demonstration Farm on Organic Vegetable Production throughout the implementation of the SOA Program. With its theme, “Matambok, Mabaskog, Nagakita sa Organikong Pagsuwa,” the SOA program was aired every Thursday and Friday, 9:00 to 10:00 AM at 104.5 FM Radyo Natin Looc and every Saturday, 10:00 to 11:00 AM and Sunday 1:00 to 2:00 PM at 101.3 FM Radyo Natin Odiongan.

Of the 339 graduates, 279 vegetable farmers are from the municipalities of Odiongan (85), San Agustin (35), San Andres (30), Calatrava (38), Sta. Fe (18), Looc (50), Ferrol (18), Alcantara (5) and 60 detainees from Odiongan District Jail.

The culminating activities were held at Romblon State University and Odiongan District Jail, Odiongan Romblon on June 29, 2017.

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During the launching, different partner agencies such as Local Government Unit (LGU) of Romblon, Romblon headed by Mayor Mariano Mateo, Ruben P. Jugno, Training Center Superintendent I of ATI MiMaRoPa, Juniel Lucidos, Director for Extension of Romblon State University, Roberto Muros from Department of Trade and Industry-Romblon, Raymund Juvian Muratin, OIC-Municipal Agriculturist and Barangay Officials of the Brgy. Macalas pledged their full support for the success of the project.