True to its mandate, ATI 8 continues to empower extension service providers for a more proactive and responsive extension delivery services. It pursues strategic alliances and networking among development stakeholders to maximize utilization of resources in the conduct of activities supportive of the region’s agriculture, fishery and extension programs.
ATI-RTC 8 welcomes 2012 with renewed commitment for what it significantly accomplished in 2011.

The Center continued to harness the potentials of the extension agents and partners in rural development for effective and efficient delivery of information and technology services.

Through its leadership, the Regional Extension Review Guidelines was crafted, which was approved during the joint ViCARP RRDCC and RRDEN RAC meeting on December 14, 2011.

The Center stepped up its campaign for sustainable agriculture through the Natural Farming System employing its basic components like bio-organic preparations and maintenance of improved habitat system. It made strides in the implementation of the AgriPinoy program through the municipal-wide briefings and techno kliniks.

It continued to tandem with development stakeholders in strengthening rural-based organizations. Many 4H clubs successfully implemented their projects and have enjoyed the harvests.

It widened its services by making itself visible in the world wide web through its website http://www.ati.da.gov.ph/rtc8 and by actively contributing in the e-Extension program of the Institute.

These and a lot more make us grateful as we embark another year of meaningful services.

### 2011 Accomplishment Report

#### 2011 Extension Activities conducted by program/fund source and participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Batches</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice/IRPEP</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>4908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn/FSTP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVCDP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Agriculture</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHRDP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgriPinoy (DA-RFO 8 funded)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>148</strong></td>
<td><strong>6143</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Center continued to empower its staff to empower others. It sent staff to various trainings to enhance their capabilities to better provide extension services.

The staff participated in 25 trainings, symposium, fora and the like. Most participated activities were on production technologies, sustainable agriculture, 4H and e-Extension. It also participated in meetings called for by its partners and collaborators.

The Center continued to plant trees under the Institute’s “ATI Tree for Life, Food for Life” project. On September 21, 2011, the staff planted 250 more mahogany seedlings at the forest area of the Visayas State University. The activity was coordinated with the College of Forestry.

The Center also improved and upgraded its facilities and purchased equipment to fasttrack delivery of services. It enhanced its connectivity to hasten information access in the net.

It opened its internet facility to extension workers, students and other stakeholders doing research or accessing the Institute’s e-Learning courses.

Our clients’ capability program focused on entrepreneurship that would improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of their farms and enterprises.

The Center implemented 148 extension activities, which include trainings, fora, and educational tours. Activities for rice/IRPEP got the biggest share which is 86 or 58% followed by those provided to the 4H clubs (17). The rest were on organic agriculture (14), HVCDP (8), FSTP corn (2), EHRDP (2) and livestock (1). The number also include activities funded by the DA-RFO 8 (9) and by the regular budget (9) of the Center.

All extension activities served 10,529 farmers, extension workers, youths, CARP beneficiaries, and representatives from the local government units, government and no-government organizations, state colleges and universities and rural-based organizations. Of the number, 58% were males and 42% females.

There were two 18 batches municipal-wide AgriPinoy briefings and technokliniks conducted to increase awareness and adoption of the latest developed technologies on crops and livestock to sustainably increase the yield and income of farmers.

The DA-RFO 8 funded the orientations on the AgriPinoy framework. The participants appreciated the AgriPinoy concept in addressing food sufficiency through natural farming system.
The Center trained trainers on rice-based production technology in support to the Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Program (IRPEP) aimed to enhance the production capability of rice growing municipalities in the region.

The training of trainers ushered in the conduct of Farmers’ Field Schools (FFS), 31 sites for batch I, phase I and nine sites for phase II. Twenty-five in batch I, phase I were already completed. There are 33 sites for batch II, phase I and five affiliate sites. The five, were done during the 2nd batch training of trainers.

The Center also enabled upland rice farmers to increase their production capability through the provision of right technology, emphasizing the development of the highlands without disturbing or destroying its ecosystem. There were nine FFS for upland rice, six of which had conducted their field days.

Other activities conducted in support to rice program were lowland seed production, farmer-led extension with 13 FFS sites, school-on-the-air focused on PalayCheck system and the computer-based data management where the Nutrient Management Rice Mobile was introduced.

Toward the end of the year, series of trainings on organic agriculture were conducted, first with the regional organic agriculture coordinator-trainers from the six provinces of Region 8 then to the city/municipal-based agricultural extension workers.

The trainees were fully acquainted with organic farming as component for sustainable farming system, the legal basis and the implementing rules and regulations of the Organic Agriculture Act, certification standards, organic agriculture practices, and promotion strategies and marketing of organic products.

The Center continued to muster the support of its stakeholders to promote agricultural development and in making the collaboration strong and dynamic.

It released closed to 2.0 M for the Expanded Human Resource Program (EHRDP) and the Youth in Agriculture and Fishery Program (YAFP), the former for master and doctorate degrees while the latter for bachelor’s degree. Of the 17 EHRDP scholars in 2011, seven graduated in April 2011 while for YAFP, one graduated and 32 are on-going scholars. The EHRDP has 10 on-going scholars. Most YAFP scholars were from the province of Biliran (16) and Leyte (13). Three were from Samar Island.

The ATI through the Center financed two educational tours for LGU-based Techno Gabay implementers. The participants visited among others the famous organic farm of Mr. Ramon Peñalosa.

It actively participated in the activities of networks where it is a member. It partnered with the networks in the conduct of extension activities, foremost of which were on information communication technology and sustainable agriculture. It served as one of the main sponsors during the Visayas State University Farmers and Fisherfolk Day.

Its host University and other government and non-government organizations tapped Center staff as resource persons or facilitators in their extension activities.
It localized information materials, which can be downloaded from the Center’s web site http://www.ati.da.gov.ph/rtc8.

The six batches Computer-Based Data Management training for the agricultural extension workers generated more e-Learning course enrollees and graduates.


With the turn-over of the FITS centers to ATI, the Center pushed for the empowerment of the program implementers in the LGUs. It strengthened its tie with the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program who entrusted to the Center the coordination of the Techno Gabay Program since 2000.

The center also implemented two School-on-the-Air for rice in Southern Leyte and Leyte. The first was in coordination with Southern Leyte State University and the latter with the Visayas State University.

We also addressed the issue of changing climatic conditions by conducting trainings on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in rice production under different agro-ecological zones. It presented good practice options to minimize the negative impacts of climate change in rice production, and disseminated early warning messages to farming communities for better disaster preparedness.

In 2011, one Farmer Scientist Training Program for corn was conducted that had six FFS sites, three in the province of Leyte and three in Samar. All FFS are still on-going. The other activity for corn farmers was the quality safety management training in processing, packaging, distribution and marketing.

Trainings in support to High Value Crop Development Program included five on vegetable production (pinakbet), three of which had FFS; and one each for jackfruit, rootcrops and banana production. The jackfruit and rootcrops trainings had FFS components that were both conducted in the province of Leyte, all others were implemented in the Island of Samar. The training focused on improved cultural management, postharvest and integrated pest management.
Its lone training for livestock was on the enterprise development on swine production.

The Center continued to harness rural-based organization’s (RBO) competence and capability in accelerating the promotion and adoption of knowledge and technologies as they venture in development activities. It provided RBO members and coordinators both leadership and entrepreneurial trainings.

The Center spearheaded the 2nd joint RBO Farm Family Forum on April 26-28, which was participated in by 207 RBO members and coordinators. The activity was guided with the theme "RBOs in motion towards food security and self-sufficiency".

The forum became the avenue for discussion on the AgriPinoy framework, Natural Farming System and the NMRice Mobile in addition to other activities done by each RBO in separate sessions.

The Center also monitored the 4H clubs’ livelihood projects implemented in the six provinces in the region. There are 60 ongoing projects, 90% of which did as expected. Sixteen of these were in the province of Samar, 13 in Biliran, 12 in Northern Samar, eight in Leyte, seven in Eastern Samar and four in Southern Leyte. The livelihood projects were on handicraft, vegetable, goat, swine, poultry and bangus production. One club signed a MOA with the University of Eastern Philippines and LGU for sustainability of their project.

The e-Learning course on abaca nursery management, which was done in 2011 completed the three-e-Learning course on abaca. The course has two modules, which introduce the cultural and management practices in the establishment of abaca nursery.

Toward the end of 2011, the Center updated its website to a new theme for more dynamism and adaptability to gadgets.

The Center through its e-Learning coordinators introduced the Nutrient Management Rice Mobile during the Farmers and Fisherfolk Day of the Visayas State University 87th anniversary celebration on August 9, 2011. Close to 4,000 farmers, fishers, extension workers and entrepreneurs attended the forum.

The Center also put up exhibits about the e-farm and e-Learning components of the e-Extension program. Information materials on e-Extension Program and various technologies were given free to its booth visitors.

It provided technical and financial assistance to the undergraduate study on the “Conditions Leading to Completion and Discontinuance of Enrollees to ATI e-Learning for Agriculture and Fishery Program in Eastern Visayas”.
The Center provided technical assistance in the extension activities of the local government units. It enhanced their competencies in the delivery of information and technology services specifically through the use of the information and communication technology facilities that were made available in their localities through the Techno Gabay Program.

Its staff mentored other extension service providers on facilitation, project formulation, effective adult teaching, sustainable agriculture and production technologies.

It provided assistance in the establishment of technology demonstrations and in other entrepreneurial activities of its clients.

The Center project monitoring team provided feedback to improve implementation of projects by rural-based organizations specifically those undertaken by the 4H clubs.

It also offered its services in formulating project proposals either as an extension activity or business enterprise.

The Cabacungan 4H club in Northern Samar was recipient of the Regional and National Gawad Saka Award for the Most Outstanding Young Farmers Association of the Philippines. The Center provided P40,000 for the club’s project on swine fattening.

Under the Expanded Human Resource Program, the Center facilitated the conduct of two batches educational tours in Negros Occidental for the Techno Gabay Program implementers. During the trip, the participants identified strategies in accelerating the promotion and adoption of knowledge and technologies; determined enabling mechanisms for efficient and effective extension service delivery; conceptualized a process of integrating TGP components into the overall extension program of the LGU; and fostered linkages and network among LGUs and other development stakeholders.

Its regular budget-funded trainings were on project development and monitoring and evaluation, one each for the agricultural extension workers and 4H club officers; gender and development; Agriculture and Fishery Extension Network; and e-Extension.

Briefings and orientations on e-Extension program specifically on the e-farm and e-Learning components of the program were done for the FITS centers’ staff. In July 2011, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development started to turn-over the coordination of FITS centers to ATI. The first batch that were turned-over were the rice and livestock-based focused FITS centers.
Our trainees learned right in the farmers’ field.

This strengthened our collaboration with the LGUs in setting up demonstration areas to showcase improved farming practices. Aside from the FFS where farmers went through the production processes in their fields, the Center assisted the Community-based Agricultural and Rural Irrigation project in Brgy. Palhi, Baybay City, Leyte.

The project adopted the sustainable agriculture concept to enhance productivity without jeopardizing the environment.

The Center also maintained its demonstration on Sorjan Farming in Eastern Samar.

The technology demonstrations established in Farmers’ Field School sites proved to get the awareness of farmers and hasten technology adoption. It provided farmers the opportunity to recognize and identify best management practices appropriate to their own conditions, with the ultimate goal of increasing rice productivity.

The FFS sites on rice production had yielded an average of 2.6 tons per hectare, which is 12% higher to what the farmers get in their practices.

The livelihood projects of the 4H clubs also served as technology demonstrations in their respective areas. Some projects were must-see as they were proofs of improved living through improved technology. It also showed improved lifestyle of some youths who were once unproductive in their communities.

The Bangus Sea Cage project of the 4Hers in San Isidro, Tomas Oppus, Southern Leyte had provided a good return of investment. Their failure on the first cropping challenged them to be thorough. Their succeeding cropings earned them more. Their latest harvest was 570 kilos from their 3,000 fingerlings stock on November 29, 2011.

Another 4H club project that led to another enterprise was the swine raising of the Malobago 4H club in Dolores, Eastern Samar. Ms. Jobelle Letaba raised one sow that delivered seven piglets. She gave one to the next 4Her in line and sold the rest to start up a swine feed retailing business. Fellow 4Hers now get their feeds from her.