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**Magsasaka't
mangingisda,
para sa ami'y sila
ang inuuna...**

This quarter's cover is the regional winner for the Gawad Saka 2018 Most Outstanding Corn Farmer, Mr. Edmar F. Piano of Bantay, Ilocos Sur

All for one, Always number one!

VISION

A prime-mover towards a modernized and competitive agriculture sector

MISSION

We are committed to provide cutting-edge and innovative interventions for a sustainable agriculture in the Ilocos.

CORE VALUES

- D**edication - Serving with a heart
- R**esiliency - Overcoming challenges
- I**ntegrity - Valuing public trust
- V**igilance - Responding to clients' needs
- E**xcellence - Raising the bar



The entry by Mr. Richard Williard A. Regacho of the Information Management System Section was the adjudged winner for the logo making contest spearheaded by the DA-RAFIS team.



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Usec La Viña leads the ASPIRE ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside (from L to R) the Municipal Agriculturist of Calasiao Ms. Monette Noguít; OIC-RTD for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon; PCCI Representative Robert E. Lim; DTI - RO1 Regional Director Florante O. Leal; and Pangasinan OIC-Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Dalisay A. Moya.



ASPIRE project launched; business prospects opens

Bringing closer the producers and processors including the agri-entrepreneurs and wellness enthusiasts in one venue, the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office I through the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division launched the 2018 ASPIRE – an Agri-Aqua Trade Fair at Robinson's Place in Calasiao, Pangasinan.

A three-day activity that started on June 22, 2018, the Agribusiness Support for Promotion and Investment (ASPIRE) in Regional Exposition is a collaborative project between and among the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) – Northern Luzon Chapter.

Graced by no less than DA's Undersecretary for Agribusiness and Marketing, Jose Gabriel 'Pompee' La Viña, the ASPIRE project is one of DA's response to improve market

access for both the consumers and producers as well as to integrate and consolidate all efforts of the LGUs, private sectors for better promotion and marketing of agri-fishery products.

DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director, Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., represented by OIC-Regional Technical Director Erlinda Manipon noted in her message the sufficiency of supply of the major commodities in the region and how the DA integrates to other agencies such as DTI and the Department of Science and

Technology to innovate and make value-adding activities for higher value of farmers' produce.

With the DA's focus on agribusiness where farmers are encouraged to not only produce but to become better business managers in their own farms, she called as well for the other stakeholders like the out-of school youths, retirees and other professionals to engage in agriculture to prove that farming is also a profitable business.

In her briefing about the ASPIRE project, Ms. Luzviminda Tolentino, Chief of the Agribusiness Investment & Promotion of the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service of the DA-Central Office elaborates the objectives of the project and how



| FROM PAGE 3

it contributes to the attainment of the DA's thrust on food sufficiency, availability and affordability for all.

With the launching of the ASPIRE project, Ms. Tolentino said that both the producers and processors' requirements will be balanced such that producers are expected to have a good production, good price of the commodities and sustainable market of their produce while the processors are expected to be

provided quality raw materials, reliable and sustainable supply as well as competitive price.

Meanwhile, providing an avenue to promote their agri-based products and widen the market opportunities for the farmers and fisherfolk in the region, 40 exhibitors joined the trade fair where several fresh and processed products were displayed for the enjoyment of the buyers.

Aside from the trade fair, the ASPIRE project also gave opportunity

for the attendees to be updated with the basic requirements in putting up a business enterprise and learn some tips and industry secrets via the investment forum conducted during the three-day event with lectures from the DA-RFO I, DTI, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Land Bank of the Philippines, the Department of Science and Technology, and Philippine Chamber of Commerce Industry (PCCI).//



2nd ROAC successfully launched in Vigan City

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I successfully conducted the 2nd Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) at Hotelinda Suites, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur on June 21-22, 2018.

Spearheaded by the Regional Organic Agriculture Program, the 2-day activity convened around 400 organic agriculture practitioners and advocates of organic farming in the region consisting of farmers, processors, agri-extension workers and representatives from the academe.

With this year's theme "*Organikong Pamamaraan, Umpisahan sa Bakuran*", the Congress provided opportunities for the organic agriculture stakeholders to learn and be updated on the latest trends

and information about organic agriculture.

Gracing the event, in behalf of National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) Director Christopher Morales as Guest of Honor and Speaker, is Mr. Junibert de Sagun, Deputy Director of NOAP. With him are Ilocos Sur First District Representative, Congressman Deogracias Victor Savellano, Vigan City Mayor, Juan Carlo Medina and National Organic Agriculture Board Member, Mr. Jefferson C. Laruan.

In his welcome address during the

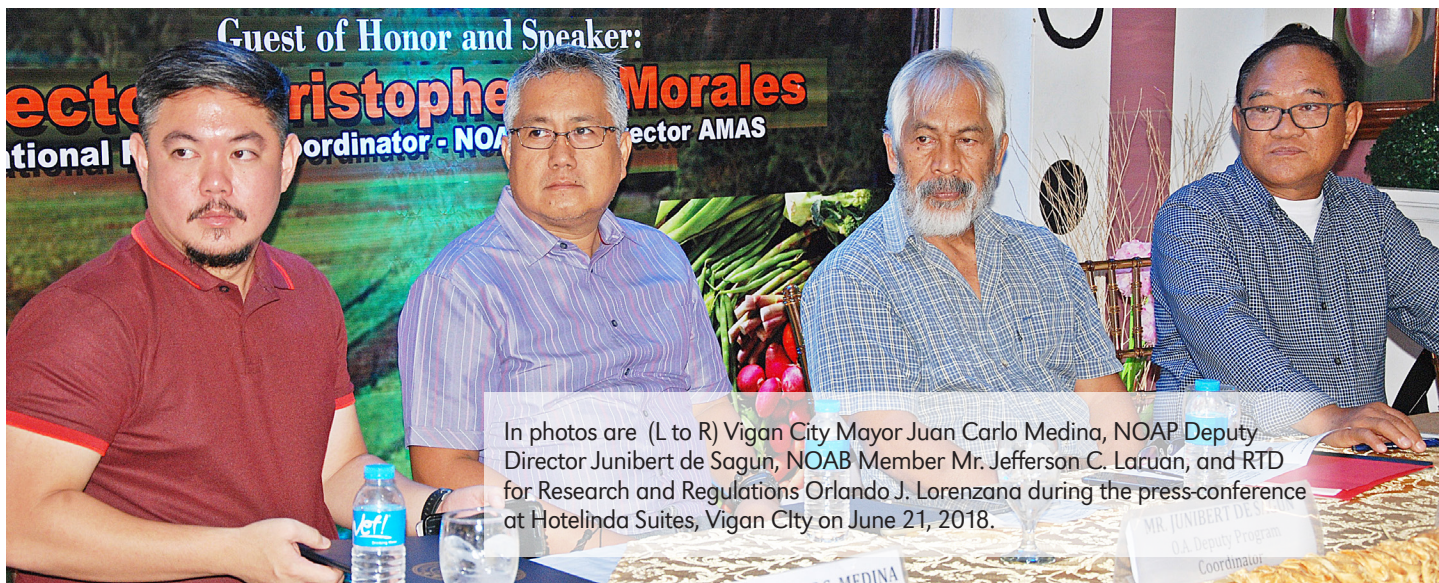
event, Mayor Medina underscored the importance of conducting activity such as the ROAC to strengthen the linkages of the key players in organic farming towards a better and sustainable agriculture industry.

Giving emphasis on the programs and projects related to organic agriculture implemented in Vigan City that specifically encouraged the younger generations to engage in agriculture, Mayor Medina also noted the LGU of Vigan's move to provide scholarship programs to students taking up agriculture related courses and the allocation of funds for organic agriculture projects in the City.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



From violators to cultivators | Ilocos Sur Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Organic Farm Project Leader Mr. Tito Batin proudly tours the participants of the ROAC in the 3,000 square meter vegetable garden of the inmates.



FROM PAGE 5

Regional Technical Director Orlando Lorenzana, representing DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr., in his message conveyed the DA's hundred percent support and commitment in providing programs and interventions especially on production support, extension, and marketing linkages to further develop and strengthen the organic agriculture industry in the



in support to organic agriculture promotion.

Mr. Reynaldo Dacones, the head of the Family Dacones and the owner of Teraoka Farm, the only Third Party Certified Organic Farm in Ilocos Region from Mangatarem, Pangasinan, received from the DA-RFO I a cash award of P50,000.00 as the Outstanding Organic Farm Family. The Dacones Family is Region 1's nominee to the 2018 Search for Outstanding Organic Farm Family at the National level.

Along with the Dacones Family, Mr. Danilo Ramos of San Marcos, San Nicolas Ilocos Norte also received P50,000.00 as cash prize for being the Regional Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer. A special citation

was given to Mr. Rhandy Opelac from Batac City for his outstanding performance as Outstanding Organic Agriculture Extension Worker. Mr. Opelac received P15,000.00 cash prize as his award.

Meanwhile, Congressman Deogracias Victor Savellano reiterated his strong desire to intensify support for organic farming in his province. Himself an advocate of organic farming, he challenged the OA program implementers to come up with truly tangible and concrete programs and projects that genuinely addresses the needs of organic farming practitioners. He hopes that with DA's support, the Province of Ilocos Sur can become a major supplier of organic inputs in Region I.//



region.

Inspiring the participants to also try and engage in organic farming, the ROAC organizers recognized during the event the outstanding performance and contributions of some individuals and groups



IS Animal Welfare, GAHP Coordinators join consultative meeting with DA

To inform and assist in the implementation of Animal Welfare Regulations and Good Animal Husbandry (GAHP), the Animal Welfare and Good Animal Husbandry Practices Coordinators (AWGAHPCs) attended the Consultative Meeting spearheaded by Regulatory Division of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 on June 13, 2018 at the Provincial Conference Hall, Vigan City.

The activity was participated by Provincial Veterinarians and City/Municipal Agriculture Officers of the Province of Ilocos Sur. They are expected to serve as frontline officers in the local level to implement the Republic Act No. 8584 or the Animal Welfare Act of the Philippines.

In her message during the Opening Program, Ms. Donna Mae Rosario, Agriculture Technician II, underscored the importance of Animal Welfare Act that allows the use of animals for food, entertainment, clothing and experimentation as long as humane guidelines are followed.

She also cited some mistreatment of animals that violates the Animal Welfare Act like eating dog meat, using

animals for laboratory experimentations without permission from the Provincial Vets, among others.

Meanwhile, Dr. Allen May Doctolero, Agriculturist II, talked about Article 5, Section 15 of R.A. No. 106111 or known as the Principal Responsibilities of Government Agencies. She explained the roles of the different government agencies namely the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Agriculture (DA) in implementing the Animal Welfare Act and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP).

Dr. Marlon Mendez, Veterinarian II, discussed the Animal Welfare Laws, Rules and Regulations. He



also emphasized its IRR that shall be strictly followed in favor of the welfare and rights of animals by ensuring the protection and security of their five basic freedom that include freedom from hunger or thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from fear and distress.

To ensure that the farming practices of the establishment provide greater confidence in consumer's expectations, Dr. Alfiero Banaag, Senior Veterinarian of DA-RFO I, discussed about the GAHP as he enjoined the participants to encourage farm owners to register for the GAHP certification.//

The Bingao Small Water Irrigation System Association (SWISA) Inc. of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte takes home Php 500,000 worth of check for having been awarded as Outstanding Small Water Irrigation System Association.

Farmers' month celebration ends with Rice Achievers Awards

As part of the culminating activity of Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month, the DA-RFO I joins in the celebration of the 2017 Rice Achievers Award at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on May 31, 2018.

The Rice Achievers Award is an annual activity of DA to recognize the excellent performance and significant contributions in the rice industry of the Provincial/Municipal and City Governments, Irrigators associations, small water irrigators associations, agricultural extension workers, and local farmer technicians.

Leading this year's awardees are the provinces of Bulacan, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, and Zamboanga del

Sur. These provinces were under the Category A that utilize rice production areas of more than 50,000 hectares. The provinces of Kalinga and Zamboanga Sibugay which were under the Category B were also awarded as the Outstanding Provinces. Provinces

under the Category B use less than 50,000 hectares for rice production. All these provinces received checks worth P4,000,000.00 from DA which can only be utilized for rice-related projects.

In Ilocos Region, bringing home the award as the Outstanding Municipality is the Manaoag town

Meanwhile, after being qualified for field validation, the province of Pangasinan received a Special Citation award and was given a check worth P500,000.00. The provinces of Ilocos Norte and La Union which were qualified for Technical Paper Presentation were given Php 250,000.00 worth of checks each that can only be utilized in the implementation of rice-related projects.

The Bussaoit SWISA, Inc. from the municipality of Bacnotan in La Union was especially recognized as the Outstanding Small Water Irrigation System Association which also received Php

250,000.00 worth of check in the form of project.

The awarding ceremonies was led by no less than DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and Senate Committee Chair on Agriculture, Senator Cynthia Villar.//



which received P1,000,000.00 worth of check. The Bingao Small Water Irrigation System Association, (SWISA) Inc. of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte was named as Outstanding Small Water Irrigation System Association which brought home P500,000.00 worth of check.

DA, BPI-NSQCS call seed growers for a special meeting



At the onset of rainy season, DA-RFO I Rice Banner Program, in tandem with the Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services, (BPI-NSQCS) convened the rice seed growers in the region for a special meeting to discuss major issues and concerns besetting the rice seed industry.

Participated in by around 15 seed growers in the region together with the Provincial Seed Inspectors, staff of the Rice Banner Program of DA-RFO I led by Dr. Annie Bares, Chief of the Field Operations Division, Ms. Erlinda Manipon, RTD for Operations and DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director, Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr.; the special meeting was held at the DA-RFO I Conference Room, San Fernando City, La Union.

In his message, RED Alviar underscored the significant role of the seed growers in the attainment of DA's major goal on rice self-sufficiency.

Giving emphasis on the result of studies on the use of certified seeds to increase the production per hectare by $\frac{1}{2}$ to one ton as compared to using good seeds, he said that there is a need to come-up with an efficient and effective seed system.



By doing so, Director Alviar asked the participants of the meeting to list down the top five most preferred varieties of the farmers per province to serve as basis of the seed growers on what varieties to produce for the next cropping season.

"While we can easily produce certified seeds, we need to know the seed variety preference of the farmers in the region," he said.

He likewise asked the Rice Banner Program to utilize the DA-RFO I's Research stations in producing the needed registered seeds of the seed growers and instructed the same to source out foundation seeds from PhilRice and IRRI to match the identified rice seed preference of the farmers.

Recognizing the vital role of the seed growers in providing the rice seed requirements of the farmers, he also vowed to provide mobile dryers and seed cleaners to active seed growers association to level-up their seed growing operations.

Further, he noted the importance of conducting re-tooling and re-training of seed growers to further enhance their knowledge and skills in rice seed production. He also called for the renewal of the seed growers' accreditation from the Bureau of Plant and Industry to ensure high quality of their rice produce.//

Batanes:

Of DA-Ilocandia's conquest for white gold

With 150-hectare expansion area commitment for garlic production in Ilocos Region, DA RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. takes the Management Committee on a benchmarking activity in Batanes to get relevant data and first-hand information from the province's garlic producers.

Aside from its exceptional landscapes and seascapes beguiling tourists, Batanes is known to be among the best garlic producing provinces in the country that produces quality garlic varieties and the cleanest (diseases free) garlic planting materials as compared to other regions.

Ilocos Region, despite sharing 60% of the total garlic production in the country, has a lower recorded yield of 2.56 metric tons/ha (2017 PSA preliminary data) compared to Batanes having a yield of about 4 metric tons/ha.

In the implementation of the 150 ha expansion area for garlic in Region I, DA-RFO I needs to source out around 90 metric tons of garlic planting materials or about 600 kg/ha to successfully implement the project.

With the benchmarking activity, DA hopes to adopt good strategies and best practices that could further help in the improvement of the quality and increase in the production of the Ilocos garlic.

Meanwhile, making the most of their official time in Batanes, RED Alviar, together with selected ManCom members who are among the BAC, Technical Working Group, and

the end-user for the supply of garlic planting material, conducted a post-qualification at the Garlic Warehouse in Itbayat, Batanes where the planting materials are expected to be sourced out for the implementation of the 150-hectare expansion area for garlic in Region 1.//





RED Alviar inspects the Garlic Warehouse at Itbayat, Batanes where garlic planting materials are consolidated, stored, and ready for shipment to regions availing these planting materials in pursuit of better quality garlic harvest. // PHOTO BY DEO RIVERA



Formerly used by National Food Authority, this facility was maximized as a warehouse for garlic.//

PHOTO BY DEO RIVERA



From Batan, sacks of garlic are travelled to Itbayat for storing.// PHOTO BY DEO RIVERA



(Photo below) The ManCom members having a respite from work through a teambuilding activity prepared by PMED and RAFIS.



Farmers soon to benefit on new DA facilities

Committed to transform the Department of Agriculture's research stations into a center of excellence for research and development activities, DA-RFO 1 is set to construct state of the art infrastructures through the initiative and leadership of DA-RFO I Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. to better serve clients in the agriculture sector in Region 1.

Going through rigid planning, sourcing out of funds and strict consultations for architectural designs to ensure quality and durability, among the infrastructure projects funded for 2018 is the Rehab & Rehabilitation of the AEW Training Center and the new Archive building project at the Pangasinan Research and Experiment Center (PREC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

Dir. Alviar, together with PREC station chief Ms. Constanca Diaz,

Chief of Staff Ms. Gloria Parong and Operations Chief Dr. Annie Bares, led the groundbreaking ceremony on June 8, 2018 at PREC to launch the start of the construction of the said building.

With a project cost of P11.5 million, RED Alviar noted the importance of having quality facilities to better serve DA's clients at the stations especially that DA-RFO I is aiming for ISO Certification.

Other than the AEW Training Center and the Archive building, set to rise as DA's new facilities at the stations are the Integrated Laboratory building, Crops Laboratory building, RIC building, and the ILIARC Training Center, among others.

Other PREC facilities and agri-machineries for distribution were also blessed during the groundbreaking ceremony.//



(Top photo) The proposed design of Ilocos Region Integrated Agricultural Laboratories, PREC.

(From L to R) The proposed design of DA RFO 1 extension building, PREC archive building, and INREC-Batac covered court.//IMAGES BY RAED



Key officials alongside research station heads pose for posterity to the betterment of servicing the agriculture sector.

RED Alviar turns-over three units MPVs to center chiefs



DA-RFO I's Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. turns-over three units of multi-purpose vehicles worth P3,018, 000.00 to the heads of the DA-RFO I's Research and Experiment Centers.

Said vehicles will be for official use of the Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center in Dingras, Ilocos Norte; Pangasinan Research & Experiment Center in Sual, Pangasinan; and the Ilocos Integrated Agricultural Research Center in

Bacnotan, La Union headed by Ms. Evelyn de los Reyes, Dr. Ma. Remedios Pajatin and Ms. Edith Estacio, respectively.

Just recently, DA



under the stewardship of Director Alviar was able to purchase a total of seven service vehicles in addition to the existing operational service vehicles being used by the DA in its field works and operations.

Joining RED Alviar in the ceremonial turn-over of the vehicles are RTD for Operations, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon and Regional Agriculture & Fishery Council Chairman, Mr. Vincent Adorna and OIC-Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Joel Maconocido.//



DA – RFO I to boost coffee production in the region

Coffee production over the years has been declining due to several reasons. So to provide support to the coffee industry in the region, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I through the High-Value Crops Development Program, conducted Basic Coffee Production Technology Training cum Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for the province of La Union on May 25, 2018 at the DA-RFO I Conference Hall.

Other than trainings, inclusive in the support of the government to boost the coffee industry is the distribution of coffee seedlings to interested farmers, hoping to revive the dying coffee industry in the region.

Among the four varieties of coffee planted in the country, DA will be distributing Arabica and Robusta varieties. Summing up the allocation for the province of La Union, 93,125 coffee seedlings will be distributed this year (83,125 Robusta and 10,000 Arabica) from CY 2017 and 2018 allotment, respectively.

In behalf of Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon, RTD for Operations congratulated the 31 participants for attending the training and venturing on coffee production, saying that they are lucky to receive free interventions and subsidies from the government.

She also encouraged the participants to take advantage of the free interventions from the government because by the year 2021, DA will be fully out of free subsidies and will focus on easy access and low financing programs for farmers.//





HVCDP trains La Union farmers, stakeholders on cacao production

Aiming to reach the given quota by the end of CY 2022, the High-Value Crop Development Program (HVCDP) of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I conducted a one-day training on Basic Cacao Production Technology cum Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on May 24, 2018 at DA-RFO I, San Fernando City, La Union.



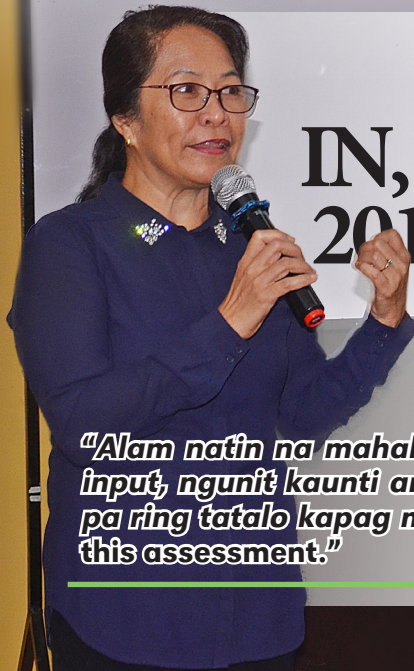
Based on the 2016 world data on cacao production, the Philippines produces less than 1% of the total recorded production hence, it wants to capture a bigger slice in the growing cacao global market. Thus, the government has committed to produce 100,000 MT by the end of CY 2022. Given a quota of 1000 MT, the Ilocos region has conducted series of training on cacao production in all of its provinces to impart rudimentary knowledge

on the do's and don'ts of cacao production.

According to Mr. David John Rondal of the HVCDP and who at the same time served as the lecturer, La Union has an allocation of 20,000 cacao seedlings for CY 2018 and an additional 53,000 seedlings from last year's allocation, making it a total of 73,000 cacao seedlings. The seedlings will be distributed to interested farmers and stakeholders in the province, prioritizing those

who participated in the training. With the increasing support to the cacao industry and the conduct of trainings like the basic cacao production, farmers are expected to expand their area of production and increase their volume of produce.

Aside from the cacao production management, DA interventions and support for cacao and other high-value crops including coffee and mango were also discussed.//



IN, IS AEWs provide updates on 2017-2018 dry and wet season at assessment, planning

"Alam natin na mahal ang per kilo ng bigas kasi mahal ang input, ngunit kaunti ang income ng ating mga farmers. Wala pa ring tatalo kapag may preparation that is why we conduct this assessment."

This was stressed by OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations, Ms. Erlinda F. Manipon during the first batch of the Dry Season 2017-2018 Assessment and Wet and Dry Season Planning Workshop of the Rice Banner Program on May 2-4, 2018 at El Cielito Hotel, Baguio City.

The activity aims to present protocols and guidelines of the different programs and projects under the Rice Banner Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1. The three-day workshop was participated in by the Municipal Agriculture Officers and Rice Report Officers of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

RTD Manipon also mentioned the need to evaluate production performances of each province from the past cropping season to determine what needs to be improved and problems that must be addressed to effectively implement strategies for the Rice Banner Program.

During the Opening Program,

Dr. Annie Q. Barres, Chief of the Field Operations Division (FOD), acknowledged the patience of the participants to attend the workshop and congratulated everyone as she shared the good news of DA Region 1 being the top performer during the National Assessment.

"If there is no challenge, there will be no strength," she said encouraging participants to continue supporting the DA programs and projects.

To assess the Dry Season 2017-2018 accomplishment, Ms. Norma B. Lagmay, Provincial Agriculturist of Ilocos Norte reported that the Province has a total of 109.30% production accomplishment and the Municipality of Dingras, the Rice Granary of Ilocos Norte, has the highest production with 158.68% accomplishment. Dingras is aiming to be a nominee for the Regional Rice Achiever Award.

Meanwhile, Mr. Marcelino Alibin, Asst. Provincial Agriculturist of Ilocos Sur reported the 109.0%

accomplishment of the province with 5.57MT reported harvest as of April 26, 2018. He also stated some issues and concern of the province particularly on their need for more representatives from DA during Agricultural events.

According to the Philippine Statistic Authority (PSA) as presented by Ms. Pamela Marzo, Agriculturist I of DA-RFO 1, Region 1 has 1,872,052 MT share to the National Production in 2017 for Rice and has 9.71% total contribution to the Philippine's total rice production.

To promote interaction and cooperation in the implementation of programs and projects of the DA with the LGUs, Ms. Jisel Labatete, Agriculturist I of DA-RFO1, also presented the ESETS of the Rice Banner Program such as; (1) Local Farmer Technician Program to have an effective transfer of new farming technologies to the farmers through the conduct of Farmer Field

DA RFO1, ATI hold 2019 ESETS harmonization workshop

ATI Region 1 Center Director Rogelio C. Evangelista shares his thoughts on how the harmonization workshop can help in fast-tracking government services and help in the efficient utilization of public funds.



To achieve efficiency and productivity by avoiding duplication of activities, beneficiaries, coverage and schedule, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 with the Agricultural Training Institute, conducted the Harmonization Workshop of Extension Support, Education and Training Services (ESETS) on May 7, 2018 at the DA-RFO1 Conference Hall, San Fernando City, La Union.

In his overall perspective, Dir. Rogelio C. Evangelista, ATI Director said that there is a need to conduct said workshop to avoid waste of time and resources spent by each agency in planning activities for agriculture that are just the same.

The activity is a way to discuss possible partnerships between DA and its attached agencies and



resource sharing in terms of budget and expertise.

Among the important matters discussed was on the Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) program of DA which is one of the priority projects of Sec. Emmanuel F. Piñol to help farmers avail financial assistance easily. The program aims to get financial assistance to support their production expenses.

As agreed on April 27, 2018 during the Harmonization Workshop of ESETS with DA-RFO 1, BFAR 1 and ATI-RTC 1 participated by the Regional Directors of the



said agencies, since Region 1 has sufficient supply on crops, livestock, fisheries and other commodities, DA will be focusing assistance on the following areas: Regulatory and Law Enforcement; Rehabilitation of Production Areas; Strengthening of Seed Growers; Agribusiness Opportunities; and Financial Literacy.

Possible interventions on the five areas identified were discussed during the workshop to provide better product, program and services to farmers and fisherfolks in the region.//

DA joins Nationwide Information Caravan for RA 10931



For wider and faster dissemination of information on the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act otherwise known as Republic Act 10931 of 2017, the Commission on Higher Education Region I (CHED RO I) spearheaded a Nationwide Information Caravan at Vigan Convention Center, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur on May 11, 2018 with around 1000 participants, majority of whom are students and personnel from the academe. The activity was conducted to update participants on the advocacy of the government on free education.

The participants were oriented on the free education program of the government pursuant to the authority vested in the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Board.

The programs, implementing rules and guidelines of RA 10931 including the IRR of free Technical – Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are presented and discussed.

After the presentations on RA 10931

followed the cutting of the ribbon by Commissioner J. Prospero E. De Vera, Ms. Carmelita Dayao, Dr. Cherrie Melanie Diego and Mr. Elmer Talavera to formally open the Education fair and exhibit participated by the different Universities in the region including the Department of Agriculture.

To promote the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Grants in Aid for Higher Education Program (ACEF – GIAHEP) and to encourage applicants to avail of the said scholarship program, the Department of Agriculture partook in the exhibit. ACEF – GIAHEP is a scholarship program of DA in partnership with CHED which aims to contribute to the development and sustainability of the agriculture and fisheries sector by encouraging the Filipino youth to embrace programs in the field of agriculture, fisheries, veterinary medicine and other related agriculture programs.//

DA-RFO 1 ushers in Farmer-Director for the month of May

As a tribute to the men and women of the agriculture and fisheries sector in the region, the DA-RFO I family warmly welcomes RAFC Chairman Vincent A. Adorna as he assumes the role of Farmer-Director in May, 2018.

He was acknowledged by DA-RFO 1 Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar Jr. during the regular flag ceremony held on May 7, 2018.

In his message, RED Alviar explained that Adorna is expected to devote 75% of his time in the agency to fulfill his responsibilities of taking the roles and tasks of the DA RFO I



Director in the implementation and dissemination of DA's key programs.

His authority, however, is limited to non-policy determining activities which should not in any way affect the government accounting rules

and procedures as well as the civil services rules and regulations governing regular government employees as stipulated in the memorandum signed by the

DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol on March 27, 2017.

The farmer-director program is one of the highlights of the month-long farmers and fisher folk's celebration, held every May.//

DA-RFO I employees undergo training on technical writing, oral presentation



Enriching their capabilities and skills in technical writing and oral communication towards efficient government service, selected staff of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 1 attend a five-day training on Technical Writing and Oral Presentation at Ariana Hotel, Bauang, La Union which started on June 18 until June 22, 2018.

Spearheaded by the Regional Agriculture & Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS), the training activity was participated in by 24 employees from various divisions/sections/units and the research centers of DA-RFO I.

Ms. Josefina Quintana, a communication expert and a former Regional Director of the Civil Service Commission-Region IV-A served as the Resource Speaker and Lecturer of the training. She discussed in details tips, techniques and considerations in writing letters, reports, memorandum and other forms of technical writing.

To enhance the participants' writing capabilities and to further improve their grammar, several individual and group exercises were given to the participants which include among others

exercises on verb-subject agreement, tense sequence, spelling, preparing outline, and writing memorandum and reports.

Fog Index, a tool to determine the comprehensibility of a written document was also introduced to the participants giving them the skills and knowledge to determine if they are able to communicate effectively to their intended readers.

Aside from writing, the participants were introduced on the basic know-how's of public speaking. They delivered an individual five-minute presentation which was evaluated by the resource person pointing out the strengths and weakness of each of the participants. //

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Schools (FFS) and establishment of Participatory Techno Demo (PTD), (2) Hybrid Rice Model Farm to enhance knowledge and skills of farmers through actual hands-on on for hybrid rice technology, and (3) Hybrid Rice Derby to showcase the relative yield advantage of using hybrid rice seeds.

On the other hand, Ms. Leah Coloma, Agriculturist II of DA-RFO1, discussed the Rice Crop Manager (RCM) Advisory Service (RAS). She said that RCM enhances the access of farmers to technologies thru phones and SMS as the system could send reminders or adjustments in RCM recommendations and could send additional field-specific information to farmer as warnings or advisories.

As the grain marketing arm of the Philippine Government, Mr. Sulpicio A. Terrado, Jr., Economist IV gave updates on the programs and projects of the National Food Authority (NFA) wherein the agency conducts buying activities directly from farmers/farmers' organizations at a basic cost of P17.00 per kilo.

Ms. Arlene Castillo, Senior Science Research Specialist from the Regional Crop Protection Center, discussed the Rice Pests Incidence in the Region during the 4th quarter of CY 2017. Some areas in Region 1 were affected by the Rice Tungro Virus where 24.60ha was reported to have been infested in Pangasinan particularly in the Municipalities of Tayug, San Manuel, Natividad, Rosales and Villasis while Army Worm affected 7ha in the Municipality of Pasuquin.

A workshop followed after the discussion to know the various issues in each province regarding rice production which is necessary to help the participants perform their functions effectively. //

DA-RFO 1 HYMN

Dito sa isang sangay ng Kagawaran
ng Pagsasaka sa bansa
Kami ay nasa Hilaga, Hilagang-
Kanlurang banda
Regional Field Office number 1,
diyan kami naitalaga
Hindi lang sa pangalan nangunguna
pati na rin sa gawa

Magsasaka't mangingisda, para sa
ami'y sila ang inuuna
Pati na rin ang mga samahang
nagpapaangat sa buhay nila
Nakatuon kami sa wasto at
makabagong teknolohiya
Para makatulong at mapabuti ang
pagsasaka nila

Sumusuporta sa mga programa; sa
palay, mais, gulayan,
Maging sa hayupan, organiko't
pananaliksik man 'yan
Pinag-aaralan ng akma sa kanilang
pangangailangan
Upang maibigayang modernisado
at de-kalidad pang-agrikultura

Dito, kami ay nagagalak na
maglingkod ng tapat
Hinaharap ang hamon, lumalaban,
makamit lang ang hangad
Pinapasabog ang husay upang ang
tiwala'y mapagtibay
At sabay-sabay tatahakin ang
mabunga at masaganang landas

Sila ang aming number one
Katuwang ng Field Office number one
All for one...always number one
Let's all work together as one

Tayo ay always number one
Sa gabay ng Dakilang Number One
All for one...always number one
Let's work altogether as one

Because all for one will make us number
one
Let's work altogether
DA-RFO 1 for number one

This entry was the adjudged winner for the DA-RFO 1
Hymn Competition, composed by Mr. El Tubon of the
Regional Agricultural Engineering Division

