2020 ANNUAL REPORT Rice Extension Services Program



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2020 Annual Report RCEF - RESP

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Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund

Rice Extension Services Program





RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND **Rice Extension Services Program Partner Agencies**



Department of Agriculture (DA) is the government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises.



Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) is the lead extension and training arm of DA, mandated to provide extension services to agri-fishery extension workers and farmer-beneficiaries.



Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) is a government corporate entity under DA which aims to develop high-yielding and cost-reducing technologies and practices so farmers can produce enough rice for the Filipinos.



Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) is mandated to generate, extend and commercialize appropriate and problem-oriented agriculture and fishery postharvest and mechanization technologies, practices and systems.



Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) sets direction, promulgates relevant standards, and implements programs geared towards a quality-assured and inclusive technical education and skills development and certification system.

In partnership with



Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is an attached agency of DA, mandated to ensure the availability of quality seeds, safety of plant food, development of crop farming technologies and safeguard the plant industry.



Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), an attached agency of DA which is mandated to promote

and strengthen capacities in participatory and collaborative governance of multi agri-fishery stakeholders.



Senator and Chairperson, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food

The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP) has achieved significant milestones in the training and advisory services to the rice industry on its 2nd year of implementation of RA No. 11203 or "An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for Other Purposes" from the time it was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte last February 2019.

With the challenges that extension workers and farmers faced, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) has continued to explore various strategies to improve its efforts as the extension and training arm of the Department of Agriculture. In 2020 with the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic new strategies such as face-to-face learning, distance learning (modular, radio, television, or online), and/or blended learning were adopted, unfortunately the targets were not achieved. Hence, we have a lot of catching up to do, particularly in Regions 7, 9, 12, and BARMM.

Now that Resolution No. 98-A. Series of 2021, dated February 4, 2021 has been issued by the IATF, the unimpeded travel of government officials and personnel on official business is now allowed as long as they comply with the minimum public health standards and must likewise pass symptom screening at the port of their arrival. Through this issuance, ATI shall have more mobility.

From the evaluation conducted last December 2020, it shows that there is a need to train more trainers on the production of high-quality inbred rice seeds and farm mechanization, strengthen seed growers, inspectors, analysts, and other extension intermediaries. ATI, in order to achieve its targets should accredit more farm schools to reach out to more rice farmers.

I believe that ATI - RCEF Rice Extension Services Program can come up to the challenge this 2021. May the remaining three years be more fruitful in that you would be able to do more for the welfare of the Filipino rice farmers for them to become competitive and earn more.

More power ATI-RCEF Extension Services.

Stay safe.



('ee'G.G

Dr. William D. Dar Secretary, Department of Agriculture

The enactment of Republic Act No.11203, or the Rice Tariffication Law, gave birth to the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), in which the Department of Agriculture (DA) has been at the forefront of empowering our rice farmers. This is through the provision of various support, including credit, mechanization, seeds, and training and advisory services.

2020 has been full of abrupt events that gave us metamorphic challenges. However, these have also allowed us to explore opportunities to re-engineer and redesign our programs especially in addressing the urgent needs of our farmers, fishers, as well as the public in general.

Considering the progression observed globally and the continuous growth of our population, it is vital to further improve the rice industry, which directly contributes to the attainment of food security and sustainability in the country. This may be a huge task, but I firmly believe that with the efficient and effective implementation of RCEF, we can expect improvement in the industry by leaps and bounds. I know that this will also open doors towards ensuring available and affordable, locally produced and high-quality inbred rice for Filipinos.

Meanwhile, RCEF – Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP), in its second year of its implementation, has achieved significant milestones in training and advisory services. We have helped capacitate and empower more farmers to compete in the international rice market. In the succeeding year, it is our priority to expand our services through the local government units, and rice-related organizations to further assist our rice farmers in their journey towards a more globally competitive industry.

Applying the One DA framework, we aim to accelerate transformation towards a modern and industrialized Philippine rice industry, and consequently, achieve a higher food sufficiency level in 2021. We can make this possible by pursuing and continuing programs and activities like the RCEF in a holistic and inclusive approach.

Itake this opportunity to congratulate and thank everyone behind these various undertakings. The second year of implementation has been tough, but I commend the initiatives implemented to reach our extension workers and rice farmers amid the global pandemic. Let us strengthen our commitment to serve with utmost integrity and competence.

Also, I extend my gratitude to our extension workers and rice farmer leaders, who are at the front-lines of development and food security. I hope you continue to work hard to level up our rice industry. We need to make things possible as we work hand-in-hand towards steering agri-fishery growth and transformation in 2021.



Lapeña, CSEEr Dr. Isid Secretary, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

It has been another productive year of implementation for the Extension Services of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. While the global COVID-19 crisis has affected our planned programs and strategies, we have nonetheless progressed considerably in the last 12 months.

More significantly, because of the disruptions caused by the pandemic, we have had to develop other means of delivering our services to comply with restrictions and to ensure our beneficiaries' safety. As a result, we and our systems are now, more than ever, better prepared for circumstances and challenges that may occur in the future.

As of December 31, 2020, TESDA has recorded some 6,401 graduates in various RCEF-RESP training programs including Farmers Field School on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seed Certification, and Farm Mechanization; Rice Machinery Operations, Drying and Milling Plant Servicing; Service Motorcycle/ Small Engine System; and, Solar Powered Irrigation System Operation and Maintenance, along with other related qualifications such as Carpentry, Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Welding and Masonry.

The pandemic has also definitely underscored the importance of food security and the indispensable roles that our farmers and agricultural workers play in ensuring national stability. Our continued collaboration in the Extension Services cluster has helped ensure that the agriculture sector remain strong and resilient amidst the crisis. With the right skills training in modernized farming, our farmers continue to increase their rice yield and other agricultural products.

With our guiding principle "TESDA Abot Lahat," we join the Department of Agriculture, its bureaus and attached agencies, as we reach out and serve our kababayans, most especially our rice farmers and farm workers, to help ensure that the Philippines attain food sufficiency.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!



Ór. Rosana P. Mula Chair, Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Rice Extension Services Program

Last year has been an uncertain and challenging year. When the coronavirus emerged, we faced its consequential effects that have been tough for all of us. Apart from all the public health concerns, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has taken urgent measures to address the threats of food shortages, and disruptions on supply chains. Indeed, COVID-19 further exposed the vulnerability of our food systems. This reinforced the importance of our food producers even when facing health-related challenges. The pandemic has truly magnified the interdependence between agriculture and other socioeconomic sectors.

It is imperative, now, more than ever, to empower our rice farmers by pushing further the implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) programs, under the Rice Tarrification Law. With its four (4) key component programs, including provision of seed, mechanization, training and advisory services, as well as credit, RCEF primarily aims to achieve food security and price stability for the most pivotal commodity in the Philippines. Moreover, the program intends to improve the livelihoods of our rice farmers, while providing consumers with a locally produced variety of high-quality rice at affordable prices.

Specifically, the RCEF – Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP) was crafted to develop the skills of our rice farmers particularly on production, modern farming techniques, seed production, farm mechanization, and technology transfer through farm schools nationwide. We, in the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), as Chair of RCEF-RESP, are glad to share that despite all the roadblocks in our second year of implementation, we have reached over 22,000 beneficiaries through different training programs, enterprise development activities, and scholarships on various rice production technologies. Additionally, we have explored various communication channels to reach more individuals and to offer more learning opportunities on rice farming in spite of the restrictions brought by the pandemic. In fact, we have reached millions of individuals through this initiative.

The overall strength of the program is shaped by the collaborative efforts of all of its implementers namely, the Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, Technical Education Skills Development Authority, LandBank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, and the Bureau of Plant Industry. We have also been working together with the local government units. Additionally, these interventions will not be possible without the guidance and support that we have received from the Office of Senator Cynthia A. Villar, Agriculture Secretary William Dar, as well as the active cooperation of various sectors, groups, and organizations.

With the support of our partners, and following the OneDA framework, I am confident that this program will continue to touch lives and reach milestones for the years to come. Let us all join hands and together lead the path towards rice self-sufficiency, and a sustainable agriculture sector with prosperous farmers and fishers nationwide.

 Chairperson, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food Secretary, Department of Agriculture Secretary, Technical Education, and Skills Development Authority Chair, RCEF - Rice Extension Services Program 	i ii iii iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Tables	vi
List of Acronyms	vii
Overview of the Rice Extension Services Program Objectives Scope Duration Beneficiaries Timeline	1 2 2 2 2 3
Financial Accomplishments Allocation, Obligation, and Disbursement	5 6
Physical Accomplishments Training and other related activities Enterprise Development Assistance Strategic Communication Services Development of Farm Schools Scholarship Program	7 8 21 23 29 30
Baseline Study Result	32
Issues and Concerns	41
Best Practices	45
Ways Forward 2022	46
Annex Regional Data S-Curve	49 77

List of Tables

Table 1.	FY 2020 Financial Performance per Implementing Unit	6
Table 2.	Accomplishments on Training of Specialists	8
Table 3.	Accomplishments on Training of Trainers	11
Table 4.	Accomplishments on Training of Farmers	15
Table 5.	Accomplishments on Training of Seed Growers, Inspectors, Analysts, and Other Extension Intermediaries	19
Table 6.	FCAs Assisted in Enterprise Development	21
Table 7.	Accomplishments on IEC Materials	23
Table 8.	Accomplishments on KSL Activities	26
Table 9.	Accomplishments on the Development of Farm Schools	29
Table 10.	Accomplishments on Scholarship Program	29
Table 11.	CAR disaggregated data of specialists, trainers,farmers,and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	53
Table 12.	llocos Region disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	54
Table 13.	Cagayan Valley disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	55
Table 14.	Central Luzon disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	56
Table 15.	CALABARZON disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries	59
Table 16.	MIMAROPA disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	60
Table 17.	Bicol Region disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	61
Table 18.	Western Visayas disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	63
Table 19.	Central Visayas disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	64
Table 20.	Eastern Visayas disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	65
Table 21.	Zamboanga Peninsula disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	66
Table 22.	Northern Mindanao disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	69
Table 23.	Davao Region disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	70
Table 24.	SOCCSKSARGEN disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	71
Table 25.	CARAGA disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	72
Table 26.	BARMM disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex and province	75
Table 27.	Non-priority Provinces disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers, and other extension intermediaries trained as to sex	76

AEW	Agricultural Extension Worker
ATI	Agricultural Training Institute
BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry
DA	Department of Agriculture
DMPS	Drying and Milling Plant Servicing
ESP	Extension Service Provider
FCA	Farmers-Cooperative and Association
FFS	Farmer Field School
FITS	Farmers' Information and Technology Services
FS	Farm School
GMAW	Gas Metal Arc Welding
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
KSL	Knowledge, Sharing, and Learning
LFT	Local Farmer Technician
LGU	Local Government Unit
LSA	Learning Site for Agriculture
LUC	Local University and College
NC	National Competency
PHilMech	Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization
PhilRice	Philippine Rice Research Institute
PVSI	PV Systems Installation
RCEF	Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund
RCSG	Refresher Course for Seed Growers
RESP	Rice Extension Services Program
RMO	Rice Machinery Operation
RSBSA	Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture
RSTC	Rice Specialists Training Course
RTL	Rice Tariffication Law
SES	Small Engine Servicing
SOA	School-on-the-Air
SPA	School for Practical Agriculture
SPIS	Solar Powered Irrigation System
SUC	State University and College
TCRMS	Training Course on Rice Mechanization for Specialists
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
ТоТ	Training of Trainers
TSG	Training of Seed Growers
TTI	Technology Institution

INTRODUCTION

The enactment of RA 11203 also known as "Rice Tariffication Law" (RTL) is one of the major reforms in the rice industry. Along with this is the implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) or Rice Fund with the four (4) main component programs aimed at improving local rice production. These programs cover the provisions of **seeds**, **mechanization**, **credit**, **and extension services**.

The implementation of RCEF is anchored on the principle of collaboration to achieve its objective of making Filipino rice farmers more competitive. With the Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP) and the continuous efforts, and expertise of other RCEF programs combined, the goal of achieving a **competitive**, **profitable**, **and resilient rice industry** is ascertained.

The RCEF implementing agencies intend to step up its initiatives as a declaration of commitment for food security and price stability for the most pivotal and political commodity in the country. The RCEF-RESP aims to scale up interventions to help our rice farmers improve their livelihoods, while providing the consumers with locally-produced varieties of high-quality rice at affordable prices.

Despite the pandemic, over **22,000** beneficiaries nationwide were assisted through the training programs, enterprise development activities, and scholarships on various rice production technologies. Farm schools were developed and information campaigns were conducted across the country to educate farmers on RTL and RCEF. These were accomplished through the efforts of the **Agricultural Training Institute** (ATI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).



COMPONENTS

TRAINING

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION SERVICES

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

DEVELOPMENT OF FARM SCHOOLS

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE





57 RCEF PROVINCES 42 PRIORITY PROVINCES

2019-2024 CALENDAR YEAR



IMPROVE KASP

DEVELOP FARM SCHOOLS

PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP





RSBSA LISTED FARMERS, FARMWORKERS, THEIR DEPENDENTS; &

FCAS

- AEWS
- RICE AND MACHINE SPECIALISTS
- TRAINERS
- POTENTIAL SEED
 GROWERS
- SEED <u>INSPECTORS/ANALYSTS</u>
- OWNERS AND POTENTIAL OWNERS OF FS
- FARMER LEADERS
- LFTS
 - FARM SERVICE CENTER ENGINEERS AND OPERATORS
 - OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES

2

RCEF Orientation and Harmonization Workshop

The workshop was held to level off and harmonize RCEF implementation approaches and policies among implementing agencies.

AN 8-1

FEB 18

RCEF SUC Meeting

Attended by RCEF implementing agencies and State Universities and Collegees (SUCs) Presidents and VP for Extension, the meeting was held to discuss the SUCs' involvement in the implementation of RCEF.

MAR 5

RCEF celebrated its 1st anniversary at Manaoag, Pangasinan

RCEF's 1st Anniversary

MAR 15

Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ)

PRRD placed Luzon under ECQ which hampered most of the RESP activities. PRRD also advised other LGUs in Visayas and Mindanao to employ community quarantine as well.

MAR 12-<mark>13</mark>

RCEF-RESP TWG Meeting-cum-Work shop

Attended by RCEF-RESP implementing agencies, the 2-day meeting-cum-workshop was held to finalize the RESP's logical framework, FY 2021 targets, weekly reporting scheme, and formulate plans for convergence with other RCEF programs. PANDEMIC

Community Quarantine Restrictions

Several restrictions brought by community quarantines across the country prohibited mass gatherings and limited travel and people movements among others. Due to these restrictions, RESP utilized virtual platforms to continuously conduct activities and ultimately reach the beneficiaries.

AUG 12



RESP activities resume

After being hampered for four (4) months, the RESP resumed most of its activities such as training and other knowledge sharing activities. New modalities and approaches were employed to ensure compliance with the minimum health standards imposed by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).

RCEF-RESP Convergence Workshop

Attended by the different regional offices of the four implementing agencies, this workshop was held to further rationalize and harmonize the plans of the different regional implementing units.

RCEF-RESP Midyear Assessment

RESP conducted its midyear assessment to assess the performance of all the RESP implementing agencies, discuss the revised basis for targeting, harmonize the program's M&E and identify issues and concerns.



ear-End Assessment

Attended by RCEF-RESP implementing agencies, this assessment aimed to review the plans, policies, and accomplishments of the RCEF-RESP for program improvement. Moreover, it identified issues and concerns in implementation, best practices, and ways forward to further strengthen the program implementation.

DEC 10-12



RCEF Convergence Workshop

Attended by RCEF implementing agencies, this workshop aimed to harmonize all the activities of each program in order to serve the farmer-beneficiaries with a package of interventions.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In CY 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic adversely affected the majority of the activities of the implementing agencies. Despite constraints brought by the pandemic, the RCEF-RESP utilized **83%** of its funds by the end of 2020 (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the allotment, obligation, and disbursement of the implementing agencies. ATI topped in terms of disbursement rate reported for a total of **Php 92,464,000.00 (93%).** PhilRice ranked second at **Php 42,901,000.00 (62%)**, and followed by TESDA at **Php 295,442.00 (47%)**. PHilMech had the lowest fund utilization at **Php 623,000.00 (2%)** which may be attributed to the linkage of their extension activities to the machinery distribution under their Mechanization Program. Last year, ice machinery and equipment distribution was hampered due to procurement problems and the prevalence of the pandemic. Thus, affecting also the delivery of their extension activities.



In comparison with 2019, RCEF-RESP posted a **22%** increase in obligation rate but a **30%** decrease in disbursement rate (Figure 1). This was due to the late release of the Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) by DBM as well as the rescheduling of various face-to-face activities to the 3rd and 4th Quarters which greatly affected the fund utilization. Obligated allotments in CY 2020 are still being disbursed in CY 2021 as accounts payable.

Implementing Unit	Financial Allocation	Obligation		Disbursement	
	(Php '000)	Php'000	%	Php'000	%
Grand Total	1,000,000	825,680	83	431,430	52
ATI	100,000	99,845	99	92,464	93
PhilRice	100,000	69,222	69	42,901	62
PHilMech	100,000	34,498	34	623	2
TESDA	700,000	622,115	89	295,442	47

Table 1. FY 2020 Financial Performance per Implementing Unit

Table 1 shows the allotment, obligation, and disbursement of the implementing agencies. ATI topped in terms of disbursement rate reported for a total of **Php 92,464,000.00 (93%)**. PhilRice ranked second at **Php 42,901,000.00 (62%)**, and followed by TESDA at **Php 295,442.00 (47%)**.

PHilMech had the lowest fund utilization at **Php 623,000.00 (2%)** which may be attributed to the linkage of their extension activities to the machinery distribution under their Mechanization Program. Last year, rice machinery and equipment distribution was hampered due to procurement problems and the prevalence of the pandemic affecting the delivery of their extension activities.







1.993

23,080

BATCHES CONDUCTED

PARTICIPANTS TRAINED

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1.033

814

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

FCAS TRAINED ON BUSINESS AND OPERATIONAL PLANPREPARATION

FCAS MONITORED/ASSISTED ON FARM MACHINERY UTILIZATION

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION SERVICES

IEC MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

608,975

939, 201

5.446.383

613

PARTICIPANTS BRIEFED

VIRTUAL & DIGITAL MATERIALS PRODUCED

INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH VARIOUS COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

51, 929

42,590

17,737

SLOTS DISTRIBUTED

PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED

PARTICIPANTS GRADUATED



DEVELOPMENT OF FARM SCHOOLS

FARM SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED

FARM SCHOOLS 25

Training

a) Training of Specialists

The two (2) training programs being offered for the specialists are the RCEF - Rice Specialists Training Course (RCEF-RSTC) which is implemented by PhilRice, and the RCEF- Training Course on Rice Mechanization for Specialists (RCEF-TCRMS) which is implemented by PHilMech. Graduates of these courses serve as Resource Persons (RPs) in various training activities of the program.

1. RCEF - Rice Specialists Training Course

The RCEF-RSTC is designed to develop the technical competence of the trainees in rice and rice-based production technologies, specifically in diagnosing and managing field problems based on the concepts and principles of the PalayCheck and Palayamanan Systems.

2. RCEF - Training Course on Rice Mechanization for Specialists

The RCEF-TCRMS is designed to develop the competence of the trainees which will serve as RPs on various training activities, and will offer technical assistance to rice mechanization-related matters.

Table 2. Accomplishments on Training of Specialists

Training	Batches Conducted	Specialists Trained
RCEF-RSTC	3	64
RCEF-TCRMS	2	69
TOTAL	5	133



Testimonial on RSTC

"Filipino farmers are hungry for modern rice technologies and knowledge. As a graduate of the Rice Specialist Training Course (RSTC), my mission is to assist farmers to become more competitive by teaching them the modern rice and ricebased production technologies to achieve high yield and income."

Junalyn Palco

Rice Specialist/Training Assistant ATI in Eastern Visayas

HEARTOFA RICCE SPECIALIST: Empower Farmers through Knowledge Sharing

Beginning of the journey

Palco became a participant of RSTC through the recommendation of ATI-RTC Eastern Visayas. In this training course, she gained knowledge on rice and rice-based production technologies equipping her with the attitude and skills on responding to challenges of a more complex agricultural environment.

The training honed her technical competencies and personality. "This training allowed me to become more confident with myself, especially in expressing my ideas. I became more resourceful and flexible in dealing with unfavorable situations that might happen. Also, I must say that my network expanded through this training because I get to deal with and meet new people. Indeed, I am now prepared to become a good resource person/trainer and share my passion and knowledge with farmers," Palco said.

Fulfilling the responsibilities

Upon the completion of RSTC, graduates are automatically included in the pool of resource persons expected to handle technical dispatches and serve the Filipino rice farmers in their respective areas.

"As a rice specialist, my primary responsibility is to serve as a resource person in rice and rice-related training courses, especially those under RCEF. I am also responsible for organizing RCEF-related training like Training of Trainers, assisting in the conduct of technical briefings, and providing technical assistance on rice production-related concerns of the RCEF farmer-beneficiaries," she highlighted.

The joy in serving others

It is very challenging and risky to fulfill the mission of a rice specialist during the global pandemic. However, despite this, Palco looked for ways to render service to the clients. With the help of her colleagues, she came up with various strategies to continue the delivery of training activities to the rice farmers.

Her commitment to serving the Filipino farmers keeps her motivated to fulfill her mission. "It was seeing the participants appreciate what I am doing and teaching that made my heart happy. And whenever I see their eagerness to learn more and apply these learnings in their farms, I am more inspired to perform better as a resource person."

Pieces of advice

Palco dreams of a prosperous agricultural sector. As she recalled her journey of becoming a rice specialist, she gave a few pieces of advice.

"To my co-rice specialists, I hope that we carry on our mission and willingly serve the Filipino rice farmers. Let us continue educating them on modern rice technologies so that they can expand their knowledge, attitude, and skills. May we also continue to enhance our knowledge on this field, so we can share sound innovations in rice farming to transform and augment our farmers' production competency."

"To the rice farmers, may you make yourself available on the programs offered by the government, especially on modern rice production technologies. Surely, these programs will help you improve your yield and increase your income. May you always see the good intentions of the government-initiated programs."

"To the aspiring rice specialists, I encourage you to undergo RSTC. If there will be more of us specializing in this field, then more rice farmers will be reached and will be given the chance to become competitive."

True to her duties, Palco learned where her heart is. "I will continue to perform my responsibilities as a rice specialist because I know even in these little acts, I am helping the Filipino farmers," she concluded.



Training

b) Training of Trainers (ToT)

ToT aims to capacitate the trainers that will be tapped for the conduct of different extension activities, especially the RCEF-Farmer Field School (RCEF-FFS). This is implemented by ATI, PhilRice, and PHilMech.

1. RCEF - ToT on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization

RCEF-ToT intends to improve the knowledge and skills of the trainers on modern rice farming techniques that can increase yield and at the same time reduce the cost of production. The graduates of this training will be tapped as RPs in the conduct of the RCEF-FFS.

2. RCEF - Training Course on the Operation and Maintenance of Rice Machinery (Farm Service Providers)

This training seeks to enhance the trainer's knowledge, skills, and attitude on the operation and basic maintenance of rice machinery for land preparation, crop establishment, crop care, harvesting, threshing, drying, and milling.

Table 3. Accomplishments on Training of Trainers

Training	Batches Conducted	Trainers Trained
RCEF - ToT on Production of High- Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization	48	1,334
RCEF - Training Course on the Operation and Maintenance of Rice Machinery (Farm Service Providers)	124	3,316
TOTAL	172	4,650



TRAINERS' PROFILE MOSTLY MALE (88%)

PROVINCES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF TRAINERS:

> PANGASINAN (341) NUEVA ECIJA (338) QUIRINO (240)

Testimonial on TOT

Sa unang yugto ng pagpapatupad ng Rice Tariffication Law, marami talaga ang umaray. Ngunit ngayong ikalawang taon, unti-unti nang nararamdaman ang magagandang epekto at bunga ng RTL na kung saan ang pangunahing nakikinabang ay ang mga magsasaka.

Marami ang benepisyong naibibgay ng RCEF katulad ng pagbibigay ng pondo at tulong sa mga magsasaka. Gayundin, nagsasagawa sila ng training programs at advisory services na nagpapalawak ng kaalaman ng mga magsasaka. Dahil dito, nagkaroon ng malaking pagbabago sa sistema ng pagpapalayan na naging dahilan ng pagganda ng aming produksyon. Tunay na malaki ang naitulong ng RCEF hindi lamang sa paglago ng aming ani, kundi maging ng ating ekonomiya.

Bilang isang trainer, nasaksihan ko na maraming magsasaka ang natulungan sa pamamagitan ng mga programang inilulunsad ng RCEF.

Sa aking pananaw, kung ito ay magtutuloytuloy, hindi malayong mararating ng ating mga magsasaka ang tagumpay sa pagpapalayan.

Mr. Ariel Taton

Farmer/Trainer Dreamer's Valley Oton, Iloilo



Training

c) Training of Farmers

These training activities aim to improve the Knowledge, Attitude, Skills, and Practices (KASP) of rice farmers in yield-improving and cost-reducing technologies, spearheaded by TESDA.

1. RCEF - Farmers' Field School on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Production and Farm Mechanization

The RCEF-FFS is a season-long training on the latest rice farming techniques participated by 25 rice farmers per batch. The training is conducted in TESDA-registered RCEF-Farm Schools (RCEF-FS). Graduates of RSTC, TCRMS, and ToT were tapped as RPs/trainers and facilitators.

2. Rice Machinery Operation NCII (RMO NC II)

The RMO NC II Qualification consists of competencies that a person must achieve in the operation and basic routine maintenance of rice machinery for land preparation, crop establishment, crop care, harvesting, threshing, drying, and milling.

3. Drying and Milling Plant Servicing NCIII (DMPS NC III)

Service Technicians undergoing the DMPS NC II Qualification acquire competencies to render services on grains drying plant facilities, rice milling plant facilities, and corn milling plant facilities. It also incorporates using a wide range of tools, instruments, and ingrains a strong sense of responsibility for the reliability of servicing heeding standards and specifications. In the end, technicians can perform any work within a quality improvement system in a drying and milling plant environment.

4. Small Engine Servicing (SES)

The SES competence training provides knowledge, skills, and ability to inspect, diagnose, adjust and service the fuel intake and exhaust, lubrication, cooling, transmission, and clutch system and its components applicable to motorcycle or small engine units.

5. Solar Powered Irrigation Systems (SPIS)

The SPIS Qualification consists of competencies required to operate and maintain surrounding facilities, their components, and accessories as well as implement water distribution. It also covers safety measures and proper handling of tools and equipment.

6. Carpentry NC II

The Carpentry NC II Qualification consists of competencies on rough and finishing carpentry, fabrication, and installation of wooden materials, and basic roof assembly.

7. Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II

The Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II Qualification consists of competencies from installation and maintenance of electrical wiring, lighting, and related equipment and systems in residential houses and buildings not exceeding 600 volts.

8. Gas Metal Arc Welding NC II (GMAW NC II)

The GMAW NC II Qualification consists of competencies to weld carbon steel pipes components as specified by layout, blueprints, diagrams, work order, welding procedures, or oral instructions using GMAW welding equipment.

9. Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) NC I

The SMAW NC I Qualification consists of competencies to weld carbon steel plates components as specified by layout, blueprints, diagrams, work order, welding procedures, or oral instructions using SMAW equipment.

10. Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC II

The SMAW NC II Qualification consists of competencies to weld carbon steel plate and pipe components as specified by layout, blueprints, diagrams, work order, welding procedures, or oral instructions using SMAW equipment.

11. Masonry NC I

The Masonry NC I Qualification consists of competencies on preparing masonry materials, tools, and equipment as well as performing basic masonry works.

12. Masonry NC II

The Masonry NC II Qualification consists of competencies on laying concrete hollow blocks for structure and plaster wall surfaces.

13. PV Systems Installation (PVSI) NC II

The PVSI NC II Qualification consists of competencies to perform site assessment, check PV components and materials' compliance, install and commission PV systems and prepare documentation requirements for PV systems installation.



Table 4. Accomplishments on Training of Farmers

Training	Batches Conducted	Farmers Trained
RCEF - FFS on Production of High- Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Production, and Farm Mechanization	1,473	14,003
RMO NC II	116	1,051
DMPS NC II	3	20
SES	41	294
SPIS	25	349
Carpentry NCII	10	145
Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II	43	640
GMAW NC II	3	75
SMAW NC I	30	459
SMAW NC II	48	866
Masonry NC I	3	24
Masonry NC II	6	73
PVSI NC II	2	0
TOTAL	1,803	17,999

15

FARMERS' PROFILE MOSTLY MALE (57%), AGE RANGES FROM 41-50 YEARS OLD

> PROVINCES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

AKLAN (2,500) LEYTE (2,363) SOUTH COTABATO (2,000)



Testimonial on Training of Farmers



"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river in you --a joy," said Ms. Gwenneth Reyes Brillo, owner of Brillo Integrated Farm in Callao, Alicia, Isabela.

At the age of 23, Gwenneth Reyes Brillo found joy in farming and serving her fellow farmers in her community, after being certified as a Learning Site for Agriculture cooperator of the ATI.

Gwenneth took a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and enrolled in Professional Education with a major in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Arts in 2018. Passing the Licensure Examination for Teachers in 2019, she dreamed of becoming an educator. "However, the teaching job waiting for me in a senior high school changed when God directed me to His perfect plan - to be a millennial farmer-teacher," Gwenneth proudly shared.

TURAL TRAINING INSTITUT

Certificate of Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Learning Site for Agriculture (RCEF-LSA)

> Brillo Integrated Farm Rice-Based Farm Gwenneth R. Brillo Brgy. Callao, Alicia,

Isabela

ALFREDO S. ATON, MPS-DM

For her, agriculture has it all: food, money, joy, and passion. "If all available local resources are maximized and used productively, farming can be a life-changer. You can save more and earn more than what a typical farmer thinks," Gwenneth expressed.

Upon completion of trainers' training on production of high-quality inbred rice and seeds, and farm mechanization in 2019, she was tapped as a parttime registrar, facilitator, and trainer in different farm schools. It was an opportunity to pursue her passion for teaching and motivating young farmers.

As a Learning Site for Agriculture

Gwenneth knew the importance of managing her farm. In 2020, she applied to certify her twohectare rice-based integrated farm as a learning site for agriculture under the RCEF in ATI. Fortunately, it was approved.

ATI provided financial assistance amounting to Php 100,000 for the establishment of one classroom and provided technical assistance in improving the farm.

As a learning site, the farm showcases the production and selling of mushroom fruiting bags, pinakbet vegetables, fruit tree seedlings, organic chicken eggs, small ruminants, and fish (tilapia) from their aquaculture, aside from palay as the main crop.

The learning site has two training halls for the FFS and agricultural crop production training. It has a penthouse that can accommodate guests for an overnight stay, an administration building, and a mini-library. Its drying pavement is also used for parking and recreational activities when not in use for drying.

All spaces in the area are maximized and planted with different crops showcasing integration and diversification, and different farming systems. "I want to show to the farmers that there is money in farming. We produce food for the family from breakfast to dinner, and provide an additional source of income, with diligence and the right tools to become more productive," she stated.

She also practiced different crop management strategies in rice farming through the PalayCheck System she acquired from the training. She believes that modernizing rice production through technology will reduce production costs and eventually in

Sharing her Passion

Gwenneth's learnings from the training and experiences managing an LSA transformed her to become a farmer-teacher. She is a product of the ATI and is ready to share her knowledge and experiences with her fellow farmers and to learn from them. Being an ATI-certified learning site for agriculture facilitated her application for farm school to TESDA. Her first implementation of the farmers' field school gave her a qualification map of 200 farmer-scholars. It has become her doorway to inspire other farmers and change the communitybased manner of rice farming through obtaining relevant skills and technology.

"I will make use of my learning site and farm school as an avenue for discoveries with my fellow farmers, the young and the old traditional and modern farmers, across genders, and every agricultural enthusiast," she said.

Becoming a Farmer-Teacher

The FFS' first season produced more determined and skilled farmers who are equipped to apply their learnings and use new technologies in their field.

During the field monitoring, Gwenneth ensures that the farmers instantaneously gain outcomes from the application of knowledge and skills as reflected on the significant reduction of production cost and increase in yield.

"It pays to be passionate and patient in teaching the farmers. The FFS is actually sharing and learning with the farmers considering indigenous and local knowledge in farming, slowly, slowly we can improve the landscape of farming in the communities," she said.

She believes that every farmer should be given the chance to be introduced to opportunities to learn. In an interview, she shared that her ultimate goal is to continue to inspire and influence millennial farmers to learn and harbor a love for agriculture. She is also into training farmers on food processing and oyster mushroom production. She believes that one way of attracting millennials to venture into farming is through recreation by letting them experience the fun part of farming.

Gwenneth hopes to groom young farmers to be agripreneurs. "The unending opportunities in agriculture are always there, you just need to look for ways on how to acquire it, and wait patiently for God's perfect time," she shared.

Training

d) Training of Seed Growers, Inspectors, Analysts, and Other Extension Intermediaries

These training activities seek to enhance the capacity of other extension intermediaries that will be tapped for various activities not only in the RCEF-RESP but also in other RCEF Programs.

1. RCEF - Training on Inbred Rice Seed Production and Certification for Potential Seed Growers (RCEF-TSG)

RCEF-TSG is designed for progressive rice farmers who have the potential to become inbred rice seed growers. The participants are either from the areas where there is no or limited number of seed growers, or where the supply of high-quality seed is limited.

2. RCEF - Refresher Course for Seed Growers (RCEF-RCSG)

RCEF-RCSG is a 3-day refresher course offered to the existing seed growers to provide the latest updates on inbred rice seed production and certification as a requirement for the renewal of their license or accreditation.

Table 5. Accomplishments on Training of Seed Growers, Inspectors, Analysts, and Other Extension Intermediaries

Training	Batches Conducted	Extension Intermediaries Trained
RCEF-TSG	3	86
RCEF-RCSG	10	212
TOTAL	13	298



Testimonial of Seed Grower

Sa pamamagitan ng RCEF, nabigyan kaming mga magsasaka ng mga tamang gabay at pamamaraan para sa maayos na sistema ng pagsasaka. Ang mga seminar sa pagsasaka ay napakalaking tulong para makamit namin ang mataas na ani. Ang programa sa Farm Mechanization ay nagbigay sa amin ng mura at efficient na alternatibong paraan sa pagbubungkal ng lupa.

Lumaki ang kita namin bilang isang seed grower. Gayundin naman, malaki ang naitulong namin sa mga magsasaka na dating umaasa lamang sa palitan ng kalapit na tubigan. Sa ngayon, mayroon na silang de-kalidad na mga buto. Sa pamamagitan ng mga programa ng RCEF, tumataas ang ani ng mga magsasaka.

> Alex Dimaano Seed Grower Pila, Laguna

Enterprise Development Assistance

To ensure viable and sustainable FCA operations, the RCEF-RESP is offering enterprise development assistance to various farmers' organizations. Specific assistance to be offered include but is not limited to business and operational plan preparation and capability-enhancement training.

Table 6. Accomplishments on Training of Seed Growers, Inspectors, Analysts, and Other Extension Intermediaries

	Number of FCAs Assisted
FCAs assisted/trained in business/ operational plan preparation (through online or limited in-person sessions)	1,033
FCAs assisted in partnership with other units/agencies, the conduct of needs- based technical/enterprise development assistance to FCAs (online training, learning sessions, lakbay-aral to nearby model FCAs, coaching and mentoring activities, etc.)	814



"Sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng makinarya ay napapabilis ang aming pagsasaka at nakakabawas din ng halos kalahati sa aming expenses, nakakatulong itong mga makinarya sa pagbaba ng expenses namin sa pagsasaka."



RCEF MECHANIZATION



EDWIN GAMOLO President Tudela Farmers Irrigators Association Incorporated Tudela, Misamis Occidental

www.philmech.gov.ph

f @philmech

rcefmechanization@gmail.com



Testimonial of FCA

"Malaki ang naitulong sa aming asosasyan, unang una dahil mura na ang aming bayad sa renta sa mga makinarya at dahil din dito magagamit na namin ang aming natutunan sa mga training at seminar. Malaki ang posibilidad na 100% aangat ang mga magsasaka."

f @philmech

Straight from the FCAS Beneficiary Testimonials

www.philmech.gov.ph





MARILYN SUMAWIT President, Maslog Integrated Farmers Association Tandag, Surigao del Sur



🖂 rcefmechanization@gmail.com

Strategic Communication Services

Training and information should be delivered hand-in-hand to facilitate effective learning, enhance the knowledge and skills of farmers, and address the gender issues on information access.

Specifically, the Strategic Communication Support Services component of RESP aims to enhance the knowledge and access to information services on high-yielding and cost-reducing technologies. This intends to expand skills and increase opportunities (e.g., machine services, scholarships, and training offerings) to improve the competitiveness and income of the target clients. It reinforces favorable changes in perceptions, attitudes, behaviors, and practices of farmers towards a competitive rice industry

a) Development and Distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials

The implementing agencies developed science-based IEC materials. Specifically, PhilRice produced materials on high-quality inbred seeds and its associated integrated crop management (ICM); PHilMech on rice machinery and equipment operations and enterprise development for FCAs; and TESDA on training scholarships. ATI consolidates all the contents and packages them into an extension tool kit together with information materials about the Rice Fund and its components.

The materials were mainly disseminated to the farmer and AEW beneficiaries via training, technical briefings, and other knowledge sharing and learning (KSL) activities. They were also available and accessible at the Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers, FCAs, Farm Schools, and offices of the IAs. Strategic media (e.g., social media, radio, SMS, print, and website) of the involved agencies and partners were also used as platforms to share the materials. Media placements were also carried out for a wider reach of information.

Table 7. Accomplishments on IEC Materials

Activity	Accomplishment
Titles developed	201
Materials produced	1,020,347
Materials distributed	608,975

Testimonial on PalayCheck Primer

Isa ang PalayCheck Primer sa napakaraming IEC materials na ipinamahagi upang magbigay kaalaman sa mga magsasaka.

Ang PalayCheck ay isang gabay sa pagpapalayan o sistema ng pamamahala ng palay na nagpapakilala sa mga pinakamahusay na teknolohiya para makamit ang Key Check; humihikayat sa mga magsasaka na ikumpara ang kanilang kasalukuyang gawain sa pagbubukid sa mga rekomendadong pamamaraan; at nagtuturo ng bisa ng kolektibong pagpapalitan ng kuro-kuro ng mga magsasaka nang maituwid ang mga pagkukulang sa pagpapalayan, madagdagan ang ani at kita, at mapangalagaan ang kapaligiran.

Florencio Flores

Owner, Flor and Daisy's Farm School Sariaya, Quezon Napakalaki ng naitulong ng PalayCheck Primer sa aming pagpapalayan. Dito ay natutunan namin kung paano mas mapagaganda ng pagpapalay at mas mapatataas ang aming ani.

Una, nakatipid kami ng halos Php 2,000 sa binhi. Ikalawa, base sa aming pagtatala ng mga naani kada harvest season, umakyat ng halos 25% ang dami ng aming ani nang sundin namin ang mga nakasulat sa PalayCheck Primer.

Maraming salamat sa mga programa ng RCEF! Nawa ay patuloy pa rin kaming makatanggap ng mga dokumentong katulad ng PalayCheck primer upang maging eksperto kami sa pagpapalayan.

Pablo Arpia

RCEF Beneficiary Farm School Participant Flor and Daisy's Farm School Sariaya, Quezon



Testimonial on Gabay sa Makabagong Pagpapalayan



Domingo Austria Senior Agriculturist Cavite



Nagsimula po kaming mamigay ng Gabay sa Makabagong Pagpapalayan mula sa RCEF-RESP sa aming mga magsasaka rito sa bayan ng Tanza, Cavite noong Oktubre. Nang matanggap nila ang ipinamahaging libreng binhi, binigyan din naman sila ng gabay na susundan nila sa kanilang pagpapalayan.

Napakahalaga ng dokumentong ito sa aming mga magsasaka dahil ito ay naglalaman ng mga dapat sundin mula sa paghahanda ng lupa at binhi, pagtatanim ng palay hanggang pag-aani nito. Kumpleto na, wala nang hahanapin pa kung kaya't may gabay talaga sa pagpapalayan ang aming mga magsasaka.

Ayon sa aming rice farmers, isa sa mga nakuha nilang teknik ay ang paggamit ng seedling tray, kung saan natutunan nila na ang punla sa 250-300 trays ay sapat na para sa isang ektarya.

Dahil dito, nabawasan ang suliranin sa kakulangan ng punla at napaliit ang kanilang gastos. Maraming salamat sa RCEF sa mga tulong na ibinibigay ninyo sa aming mga magsasaka. Sana ay patuloy pa ninyong tulungan ang rice farmers.

Binigyan kami ng 40 kilong (kg) binhi para sa isang ektarya naming palayan. Noong una ay nagtaka ako kung paano magiging sapat ang 40kg sa isang ektarya samantalang minsan ang 100kg binhi ay kapos pa para sa isang ektarya.

Nang magtanim kami, tinipid naming maigi ang mga binhi. Sinunod namin ang 20x20 sqauremeter (sqm) na pagitan kada punla na nakalahad sa Gabay sa Makabagong Pagpapalayan.

Napansin namin na gumanda ang aming tanim at hindi na rin namin kinailangang mag-spray nang maraming pesticide. Noong una ay umaani lamang ako ng 105-110 kaban ng palay, ngayon ay umaani na ako ng 170 kaban ng palay kung kaya't hanggang ngayon ay sinusunod na namin ang mga teknik na nakasulat sa gabay. Kami nga pong mga magsasaka ay kulang sa makabagong kaalaman kung kaya't malaki po ang naitutulong ng mga dokumentong katulad ng gabay.


Strategic Communication Services

b) Knowledge Sharing and Learning (KSL) Events and Services

The KSL initiative is a dynamic, interpersonal communication engagement designed to facilitate knowledge sharing and learning with program beneficiaries and partners or intermediaries, such as the media including farmcasters, policymakers, and other intermediaries. Its main objective is to brief the extension and communication partners about the program and its services and engage them to actively take part in the projects and activities. In total, RCEF-RESP's KSL activities briefed/reached 5,446,383 beneficiaries.

Activity	Accomplishment	
Information Caravan		
Batches Conducted	116	
Participants trained	10,180	
Technical Briefing		
Participants briefed	843,566	
Palay-aralan		
Live Audience Briefed	1,890	
Post Views	378,654	
Lakbay Palay		
Participants Reached	78,462	
E-Talakayan		
Batches conducted	9	
Participants Briefed (Virtual)	2,816	
School-on-Air (SOA)		
Batches conducted	6	
Participants trained	2,287	
Social Media Posts		
Materials uploaded	1,025	
Individuals reached	4,880,186	
Text Broadcast (Push)		
Messages Sent	15	
Recipients reached	565,966	
Text Hotlines/Queries (Pull)		
Queries answered	231	
Website Updates		
Website stories uploaded	120	
Pinoy Rice Knowledge Bank downloads	55	
Media Placements		
Radio Ads	299	
TV Ads	50	
Press Releases	13	
Print Media	20	
YouTube Videos	21	
FITS Center Enhancement	9	
Other KSL Activities (Media Briefings, Webinars, PalayTalakayan, etc.)	20	

Testimonial on SOA

5.0

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ELLIP

Dahil sa pakikinig namin sa SOA ay nadagdagan ang aming kaalaman tungkol sa mga makabagong teknolohiya at sistema ng pagsasaka na angkop sa aming lugar ng taniman.

Isa sa mga natutunan ko ay ang RCEF. Ipinaunawa ng programang ito kung ano ang mga layunin ng gobyerno sa paglikha ng RA 11203 o mas kilala bilang RTL na nagbigay buhay sa RCEF.

Gayundin, tinalakay rin ang PalayCheck System na importanteng malaman at matutunan ng mga magsasaka upang masigurado na ang kanilang ani at kita ay check na check!

Kung kaya't lubos akong nagpapasalamat sa DA. Nawa ay patuloy pa ang mga ganitong pagsasanay sa radio.

Tony R. Ferrer Farmer Bantayan, Lingayen, Pangasinan

Testimonial on eTalakayan

Salamat po sa e-talakayan ng DA-PHilMech dahil natutunan namin ang posibleng makinarya na maari naming magamit mula sa land preparation, transplanting, harvesting threshing hanggang rice milling. Sana po marami pang e-talakayan para madagdagan pa ang aming kaalaman sa modernong pagsasaka.

Ricardo Ebanculla Jr. Balila San Quintin Irrigators Association Labuan San Quintin, Pangasinan

Development of Farm Schools

Farm Schools refer to existing TESDA-registered FS and Technology Institutions (TTIs), ATI Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs), Schools for Practical Agriculture (SPAs), and Extension Service Providers (ESPs), Agricultural State and Local Universities and Colleges (S/LUCs), and other training providers (e.g., DA-ATI RTCs, DA-PhilRice, DA-PhilMech). The Farm Schools are the sites where the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and other relevant training activities are conducted.

Table 9. Accomplish	ments on the Devel	lopment of Farm Schools
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Activity	Accomplishment
Establishment of Farm Schools	88
Enhancement of Farm Schools	25

Scholarship Program

TESDA designs and implements a scholarship program through the use of vouchers (scholarship grant certificate) intended for RSBSA-listed farmers and farmworkers. The scholarship vouchers will be awarded to beneficiaries to access various training regulations offered by TESDA. In total, the RCEF-RESP distributed **51,929** scholarship slots, and had **42,590** and **17,737** farmers enrolled and graduated, respectively.

Course	QMs Distributed	Participants Enrolled	Participants Graduated
RCEF – FFS on Production of High- Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Production, and Farm Mechanization	41,942	35,112	13,741
RMO NC II	4,431	2,729	1,051
DMPS NC II	420	70	20
SES	1,158	1,003	294
SPIS	660	533	349
Carpentry NC II	270	236	145
Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II	994	930	640
GMAW NC II	75	75	75
Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC I	650	623	459
Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC II	1,064	1,064	866
Masonry NC I	70	70	24
Masonry NC II	145	145	73
PVSI NC II	50	0	0
TOTAL	51,929	42,590	17,737

Table 10. Accomplishments on Scholarship Program

Testimonial of Farm School

DA-ATI-RCEF-LEARNING SITE FOR AGRICULTURE

RICE SEED PRODUCTION

Seed Grower	: JOSE G. LABONIT
Farm Location	: Brgy. San Isidro,
	Pilar, Bohol
Variety	: PSB Rc18 &
Tanio,	NSIC Rc222
A- Nanted	: 19 Hectares
Planted	: Nov. 28, 2019 to
alle	Dec 29 2019

pector: Romeo T. Tariao

The genuine technical and financial support of the government through DA-ATI's RCEF Program sustained us in running our farm. Likewise, they enriched our knowledge, skills, and attitude in producing transformational frontrunners of the rice-sufficient farming communities.

We are thankful to ATI in Central Visayas for paving the way towards many opportunities. As an accredited Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), we can enhance the capabilities of farmers and lead them to become farmer leaders and practitioners in serving and securing the food and economic well-being of our pandemic-stricken communities.

Similarly, ATI energized us to physically, technically, and passionately continue invigorating our co-farmers in feeding the people and preserving the health of the environment. This makes our farm the best place for everyone who loves to live a simple, peaceful, nature-centered, and contented life.

Indeed, we can do more when we work together with our government units, private agency partners, much more with our co-farmers in attaining inclusive growth among these food suppliers.

Jose and Marina Labonite

Owner, Labonite Family Rice Farm DA-ATI RCEF Learning Site for Agriculture and TESDA TVI-Farm School Purok 3, San Isidro, Pilar, Bohol





Testimonial on Scholarship

RNES

I grew up under the shades of coconut palms planted and nurtured by my forebears. Farming is very natural to me; it is our way of life. My father was a coconut farmer. Our lifestyle was very simple, frugal, and rural. As a child, I never thought that we lack anything in life.

After over two decades of living and working abroad, I came back to my hometown in 2005 with a firm intention of singly retracing the footsteps of my farming ancestors. As I journeyed into full-time farming, I took many paths and wore many hats. I engaged in corn and cassava farming, then joined the PCA coconut re-planting program where I re-established our coconut farm while intercropping high-value crops and integrating Boer goats.

Ruthfreya Teresita M. Avila

TerraPedrito Farm ATI Learning Site for Agriculture TESDA RCEF-Farm School Candelaria, Quezon ATI Region 4A



I also bought a rice paddy hoping to become a rice farmer. I actively participated in the PCA road map initiatives for coconut farmers' welfare and became the founding president of the Candelaria Coconut Council and its Federation while partnering with Nutiva USA and Peter Paul Philippine Corporation in the Hatid-Punla Orgullo coconut planting project.

I became a rare fruit, and a Philippine native tree collector. My farm became a nursery for exotic, indigenous, and endemic plants. I hosted research and researchers by providing them with materials and access to my farm. I also wrote articles on Philippine Native Trees; joined the Zoological Society of London working group in writing a Manual on Nursery and Outplanting of Beach Forest Trees.

My connection with ATI started in 2017 when my long-time farming buddy Ms. Gigi Morris invited me to join the seminar on Fabrication of Improvised Farm Tools & Equipment for Women at ATI-ITCPH in Marawoy, Lipa City. It was a heartwarming experience; an eyeopener where I met striving and successful gentlewomen who took to heart farming as a vocation and occupation. It dawned on me that there is a window of opportunity to become an ATI extension partner while pursuing my passion for farming. Having the ATI Region 4A certify my farm as a Learning Site for Agriculture gave me the chance to continue my mission of empowering our Filipino farmers through education. This affiliation enables me to carry out my educator's pledge to facilitate agri-learning; challenge my trainees for better outputs; encourage and inspire our young farmers to vigorously pursue a profitable and rewarding farming enterprise.

To date, we are training 100 TESDA scholars under the Rice Extension Services Program of RCEF on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization.

Yesterday's dream is my reality today as I am now a proud bearer of an extension partnership with the ATI Region 4A, TESDA Quezon, and Department of Education Division of Quezon.

Thank you ATI Region 4A for opening doors and helping a simple, passionate lady farmer to achieve her dream.

RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND- RICE EXTENSION SERVICES PROGRAM (RCEF-RESP)

Baseline Study Results

General Objective: Describe the situation of the Philippines rice farmers before the implementation of the RCEF program and determine whether the existing extension interventions are effective and relevant to the farmers' needs.

Specific Objectives:

- 1. Characterize the farmer respondents' socio-demographic, farm, and economic profile;
- 2. Identify the respondents' access, perceived satisfaction, and relevance of rice-based extension services;
- 3. Describe the adoption of rice technology and practices;
- 4. Draw insights on the farmer respondents' level of empowerment and competitiveness; and
- 5. Generate lessons and relevant information as a basis for evaluation and policy support.

Scope: The study was conducted in **55** out of **57** RCEF Provinces (except Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). It was administered by DA-ATI through its **15** Regional Training Centers (RTCs).

Total Number of Respondents: 5,9671

1 The number was proportionally allocated based on the percentage share of rice farmers per province and they wer randomly selected.

Findings on the Baseline Study with Farmer-Respondents

1. SEX RATIO 68% Male ; 32% Female

This suggests that a significant proportion of the potential farmer-beneficiaries of the RCEF-RESP are females. RCEF-RESP interventions should consider the distinct needs of female farmers to address gender inclusivity and women empowerment in the rice industry.

2. AGING TREND Mean Average: 53 years old

Encouraging the youth and incentivizing rice farming are necessary. They can be done through the provision of livelihood assistance and scholarships to increase the interest of the younger generations towards rice farming and other agri-based enterprises.

3. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

2 out of 3 (69%) have not reached/ completed any post-secondary level of education.

As suggested by a study, a farmer's level of education would affect their ability to adapt to the changing needs of agriculture particularly in terms of technological advancements and the changing climatic conditions. Hence, there is a need to equip farmers with the information needed to adapt to the changing needs.

56% are land-owners of the rice farms





Findings on the Baseline Study with Farmer-Respondents

4. LAND TENURE*

5. RICE PRODUCTION AREA

6. RICE ECOSYSTEM*

7. RICE SEED USED

8. MEAN RICE YIELD

9. GROSS ANNUAL INCOME

10. CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES **39% are land tenants 9% are Lessee**

Average: 1.61 ha 75% had less than 3 ha for rice production 25% had 3 ha an above for rice production

65% practice irrigated rice farming 37% use rainfed type 2% have an upland rice ecosystem

63% only used inbred seeds 10% only used hybrid seeds 25% use both inbred and hybrid seeds 2% has no response

4.37 tons per hectare, which is below the RCEF-RESP target of 6 tons per hectare.

55% have a gross annual income less than Php 125,772.00, which falls below the poverty threshold in 2018. **45% have a gross annual income of more**

than Php 125,772.00

Most farmer-respondents are not practicing crop rotation (70%) and valueadding (95%). They are also dependent only on rice farming as their major source of income (40%).

11. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The majority of respondents **(87%)** did not receive rice-based extension interventions for the last 5 years before RCEF from the four RESP implementing agencies.

Those who received intervention from RESP implementing agencies (13%) have relatively higher mean rice yields and incomes compared to those who have not.

12. AWARENESS ON THE RICE FARMING TECHNOLOGIES

Most farmers are aware of rice farming technologies and practices under seed and variety selection, land preparation, and harvest management:

Most of the farmer respondents (70-90%) have low awareness of the following:

- ICT (binhing palay app)
- Nutrient management (MOET)
- Farm mechanization technologies and practices

13. KNOWLEDGE LEVEL

Farmers were least knowledgeable on the following:

Pest Management: No spraying within the first 30 days after transplanting (DAT) or 45 days after sowing (DAS) for defoliators (86%) and conservation of beneficial organisms or natural enemies (86%).

Farm Mechanization Technologies and Practices:

- 97% Use of walk-behind transplanter;
- 94% Use of mechanical dryer;
- 87% Use of four-wheel tractor; and
- 84% Use of combine harvester.



- 93% harvest palay when 85-90% of the grains are golden yellow (if manual harvesting) or 90 95% (if using combined harvester)
- 93% no high or low soil spots after final leveling
- 92% use of wooden plank or tiller-attached lever
- 91% drain field 1 2 weeks before the expected date of harvesting
- 90% use of high-quality [inbred] seeds



14. ADOPTION LEVEL

Practices or technologies least adopted by farmers are the following:

- Farm mechanization
 - 78% use of mechanical dryer,
 - 90% walk-behind transplanter,
 - 60% four-wheel tractor,
 - 94% riding-type transplanter,
 - 53% combine harvester,
 - 81% reaper harvester,

90% - drum-seeder for direct-seeded rice,

54% - riding-type hand tractor and

- 85% hull carbonizer
- Nutrient management technologies and practices

The RCEF-extension services should focus on promoting and ensuring that the identified rice technologies and practices shall be adopted by farmers, especially those under the nutrient management and farm mechanization categories. This can be done through:

- Reviewing support of DA in the provision nd access of farmers to rice-based technologies and practices
- Refocusing of policies and setting mechanisms in place towards the strengthening of AFE services of the LGUs as primary extension service providers.

Findings also revealed that the mean rice yields and incomes of those who adopted any of the listed technologies and practices were relatively higher compared to those who didn't.

15. MEMBERSHIP IN FARMER ORGANIZATIONS/COOPERATIVES

63% are members of farmer organizations/ cooperatives

Farmers who are members of farmers' organizations have higher average rice yields.

Farmer organizations may serve as an effective intermediary in the dissemination of various government interventions to help farmers improve their productivity and income. Hence, government support in the establishment and development of farmer organizations is suggested.



16. CLIENT EMPOWERMENT

Very few farmer-respondents were members of Agricultural Machinery Service (AMS) provision enterprises; accredited seed growers; certified as ATI learning sites; and have TESDA certifications on competencies and skills as well as farm schools.

Thus, policies and programs to increase farmers' awareness on and access to seed grower accreditation, TESDA training and competencies, and skills certification, ATI's learning site certification, and TESDA farm school registration are recommended.

17. ENGAGEMENT IN 'AGRIPRENEURIAL' ACTIVITIES 1 out of 5 (20%) is engaged 'agripreneurial' activities

This is an opportunity for RCEF-RESP to contribute to the empowerment of farmers through interventions that will educate, encourage, and engage them in farm record-keeping and business or farm strategy and plan development.



18. FARMS AND PRODUCTS CERTIFIED BY AN ACCREDITING BODY

At least 99% of the farmer respondents' farms and products are not certified with any accrediting body such as Organic Agriculture, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), among others.

19. MARKETING OF RICE-BASED PRODUCTS*

Most farmer respondents sold their products to middlemen (58%), local markets (44%), and local commercial establishments (17%). While only a few (1%) sold products to international markets.

The RCEF-RESP may consider this as an opportunity to contribute to making the local rice industry more competitive through extension interventions which will educate local farmers to make their rice products more competitive.

* - Multiple Response

Findings on the Baseline Study with Farmer-Respondents

Key Lessons and Policy Implications

The survey presents a picture of a generally aging farmer population. This poses both threats and opportunities for the sector in terms of food security, rice sufficiency, and sustainability.

If the youth remain uninterested in venturing into agricultural pursuits, it will adversely affect long-term domestic food production. The challenge of engaging more youth towards agriculture and fisheries enterprises must be supported by making it profitable and attractive to the younger generation.

- Rice farming is dominated by male farmers. As seen from the results, there is a rise in the participation of young women in rice farming. This is seen as an opportunity to encourage more women to participate in rice farming and access various government support (extension services/training). This is to realize their significant role and potential in this field (e.g. value-adding, marketing, agripreneurship).
- Regions with high dominance of male farmers (Region 10 and 5) should look into areas of gender and development/ gender inclusivity.
- Household incomes of more than half of thericefarmer-respondentsfall below the poverty line. Increasing their productivity and income is essential to get them out of poverty. The dual thrust to improve rice productivity, and promote farm diversification to provide an opportunity of earning income aside from rice is in place as specified in the RCEF-RESP log frame.
- Technology uptake of the farmers depends on the benefits they perceive from adopting technology and practices recommended from the extension services they have accessed.

- Technology adoption is more probable when farmers see them being effective and able to raise income, increase yield, and open access to markets.
- Continuous support from the governmentprovides major motivation towards the adoption of technologies. The lower unit cost of production is the foremost consideration of farmers' inclination to adopt technology innovations.
- Technologies and practices with low awareness, knowledge, and adoption should be reinforced through an information campaign and capability building.
- Capacitate farmers in Farm Mechanization and ICT-based rice technologies.
- Strengthen the implementation of the AFMech Law (RA 10601) to provide training on farm mechanization.
- Utilize FITS Centers of LGUs to increase the capability of farmers in ICT.

- Provision of interventions to regions with low adoption of rice technologies and practices should be prioritized.
- Look into areas where the government can provide support to increase the adoption of modern rice farming technologies and practices.
- Review support of DA in the provision and access of farmers to rice-based technologies and practices.
- Increase access of farmers to credit.
- Intensify provision of incentives to farmer-leaders to utilize farmer-to-farmer extension in increasing adoption of modern rice farming technologies
- Technological solutions and strategies are available to increase rice yields and reduce postharvest losses and marketing costs. Government resources and support are in place to enable Filipino rice farmers to become competitive in the rice industry and explore niche markets.
- Adoption of modern technologies and practices by rice farmer-beneficiaries gearedtowardsincreasingyieldsatreduced production cost as well as reducing postharvest losses may be refocused on rice extension services.
- Further, building the capacity of rice farmer-beneficiaries to venture into rice or other agri-based enterprises must also be promoted with an emphasis on inculcating the spirit of cooperation and competitiveness.
- Agriculture and fisheries extension interventions play a significant role in the adoption of technologies and enhancing the access of farmers to the market.

- Policies should be refocused and mechanisms set in place towards strengthening AFE services of the LGUs as primary extension service providers.
- Promulgation of Policies for Local Chief Executives to prioritize agriculture and fisheries development of their locales and harmonize it with national priorities.
- Inclusion of agri-fishery development as one of the governance areas under the seal of good governance.
- Concerning the empowerment of rice farmers, though the majority of the farmers belong to associations and cooperatives, there is a lack of effective linkages established to hasten technology uptake. Therefore, more efforts should be taken to make these organizations a channel for technology adoption and farm mechanization.
- Associations and cooperatives can also provide entrepreneurship opportunities for the members.
- Individual skills/competencies development and certification should also be looked into as very few farmer respondents indicated access to certification.
- Development of curriculum-based training programs for AEWs and client groups
- Awareness of global trade standards and capacities for certification have to be addressed, noting that this is an important indicator of enhanced competitiveness of the country's rice farmers.



Training of Specialist, Trainers, Farmers, and Other Extension Intermediaries.

ISSUES

Difficulty in inviting trainees due to travel restrictions

ACTIONS TAKEN

Repackaged training design (blended online with technology demonstration and 2-week live-in training) - For PhilRice

Invited participants within the location where the training is being conducted

Ensured adherence to health & safety protocols (limited number of participants per batch, single room occupancy, provision of face mask, among others)

Provided transportation to the participants to and from the venue

RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE CONCERNED AGENCY

Invite participants from FCAs and Farm schools but with clear policies on their involvement in the RCEF program

Conduct blended training activities to invite participants without requiring them to attend physically

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

ACTIVITY

Training of Specialist (RSTC)

ISSUES

Delayed completion of two batches due to the pandemic

ACTIONS TAKEN

Provided certificates to trainees stating 90% course completion.

Redesigned Part 3 and delivered it online with adjustments on topics and design of the exam

RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE CONCERNED AGENCY

More proactive recruitment of participants and conducting training through other modalities



IEC Materials

ISSUES

Difficulty in IEC distribution due to restrictions brought by the pandemic

Slow distribution of IEC materials, particularly the PalayCheck primer intended for RCEF- FFS participants. We have prepared an allocation of PalayCheck Primer good for 6 years. The (who sent) sent most copies to TESDA provincial offices but they have difficulty keeping them as they lack storage areas.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Sent IEC materials through courier or rented vehicles

Other copies to be sent to various stakeholders through DA-RIOs, FCAs, ATI, and LGUs

RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE CONCERNED AGENCY

Allot more budget for courier and vehicle rental

Ensure that TESDA provincial offices are able to distribute the PalayCheck Primers to Farm Schools

Tap RIOs in IEC distribution

ACTIVITY

Training of Specialist and Trainers

ISSUES

Poor internet connectivity affecting the conduct of training

ACTIONS TAKEN

Established better internet connection within the DA offices and LGUs

RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE CONCERNED AGENCY

Provide training modules, worksheets, and IEC materials prior to the training (regardless of physical or virtual)

**

Info Caravan and Technical Briefings

ISSUES

Difficulty in gathering participants due to restrictions brought by the pandemic

ACTIONS TAKEN

Provided transport to and from the venue

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conduct online info/educational campaigns

ACTIVITY

School-on-Air (SOA)

ISSUES

Halted SOA graduation due to LGU restriction

22

ACTIONS TAKEN

Virtual graduation was conducted instead of face-to-face graduation.

Allotted budget for the SOA graduation was converted to extension support kits distributed to participants

RECOMMENDATIONS

Encourage virtual graduation in the succeeding SOA implementation



Business/operational planning workshops with the FCA recipients of Rice Mechanization Program

ISSUES

Small number of participants are allowed by LGUs at a given time to attend workshops

ACTIONS TAKEN

Clustered nearby municipalities to meet the maximum number of participants

RECOMMENDATIONS

Early identification of Identify participants in their respective locality earlier

ACTIVITY

Establishment of Farm Schools (FS)

ISSUES

Difficulty in validating and accrediting the Farm Schools

ACTIONS TAKEN

Farm School applicants sent their application and documents through email. (Sending of documents are all done through courier prior to COVID)

ATI-RTCs conducted virtual FS validation

RECOMMENDATIONS

Practice online validation and accreditation in the succeeding years

ACTIVITY

S&T Updates

ISSUES

Difficulty in communicating with the Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

ACTIONS TAKEN

Sent letters regarding activities and visited their offices to follow-up requests

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conduct regular follow-up requests regarding dates of sessions conducted by the SB Members

Best Practices

With the overall purpose of enhancing the capability of RCEF beneficiaries in highquality inbred rice production, seed certification, farm mechanization, and other relevant skills, the whole program is set to deliver strategic extension services until 2024. The RCEF-RESP reached different milestones despite the adverse effect of the COVID-19 to various extension activities.

Lessons were learned and actions were taken by the RCEF-RESP. And in the midst of the adversary, best practices were employed by various RCEF-RESP IAs that they deemed worthy of sharing and being emulated by others.

Specific Activity	BEST PRACTICE/S
E-Talakayan (PHilMech)	Despite restrictions brought by the pandemic, sharing of knowledge was strengthened by PHilMech by digitizing the conduct of seminars about the program and on modern rice machinery through Facebook groups. Participants gave their positive feedback and reiterated the effectiveness of the webinar.
Finance Management (PhilRice)	75% budget utilization of communication component due to proactive monitoring of the procurement processes with a dedicated staff assigned
ToT (PhilRice)	Offered online refresher course to season-long PalayCheck training graduates in past three (3) years to meet the demand for Farm School trainers
ToT (ATI)	Shifted to online blended learning which consisted of recognition of participants' prior learning, webinars, enrolment to e-Courses, radio broadcasting/SOA, face-to-face hands-on activities with a limited number of participants per batch, among other things.
Virtual Materials (ATI)	Strengthened social media visibility by publishing posts and stories in the ATI CO's and RTCs' websites and FB pages.
Sharing of IEC materials	Maximized our online platforms during the pandemic, which resulted in higher engagement in terms of views and comments
(PhilRice)	Partnered with DA-RIOs in distributing IEC materials
	Designated Comm Focal Persons (CFPs) in the branch stations in reaching beneficiaries and targets. Online visibility was also enhanced through their help.
Info Caravans (ATI)	Conducted info caravans through small, community-based info dissemination activities with 25 participants per batch. Some info caravans were virtually implemented (FB Live).

WAYS FORWARD CY 2021

Moving to its 3rd year of implementation, the RCEF-RESP is set to deliver strategic extension services to the **57** identified RCEF-provinces. The following activities are set to be implemented in CY 2021 with the goal of improving the RCEF beneficiaries' KASP and later on their yield and income.

Lessons were learned and actions were taken by the RCEF-RESP. And in the midst of the adversary, best practices were employed by various RCEF-RESP IAs that they deemed worthy of sharing and being emulated by others.

Training

- Training of Specialists: 10 batches with 285 participants to be trained
- Training of Trainers: **318** batches with **9,449** participants to be trained
- Training of Farmers: **1,620** batches with **51,875** participants to be trained
- Training of Seed Growers, Analysts, Inspectors, and Other Extension Intermediaries: **20** batches with **385** participants to be trained
- Other Training Activities: 22 batches with 495 participants to be trained



Strategic Communication Services

- IEC Materials
 - 19 titles to be developed
 - 276,375 materials to be produced
 - 231,520 materials to be distributed
- Info Caravans: 32 batches with 4,600 participants to be briefed
- Technical Briefings: 100% of seed distribution activities covered
- Palay-Aralan: 20 batches to be conducted
- E-Talakayan: 17 batches with 4,500 participants to be briefed virtually
- SOA: 36 batches with 19,300 participants to be trained
- Social Media Posts: 136 materials with 600,000 individuals to be reached
- Text Broadcast (Push): 12 messages with 750,000 recipients to be reached
- Text Hotlines/Queries: 100% of queries to be responded
- Radio Placements: 147 radio ads to be aired
- TV Placements: 10 tv ads to be broadcasted
- Media Campaign: 63 campaigns to be conducted
- FITS Center Establishment: 6 centers to be established
- FITS Center Enhancement: 17 centers to be enhanced
- Documentation of Exemplar Beneficiaries: 2 beneficiaries to be documented

RCEF-KSL: 6 batches with 210 participants to be briefed





Enterprise Development Assistance

- Business/Operational Plan Preparation: **3,933** FCAs to be assisted/trained in business/operational plan preparation (through online or limited in-person sessions)
- Monitoring, Assessment, and Planning Workshop: **600** FCAs to be assisted in partnership with other units/agencies, the conduct of needs-based technical/ enterprise development assistance to FCAs (online training, learning sessions, lakbay-aral to nearby model FCAs, coaching and mentoring activities, etc)
- Profile Updating of FCAs: 2,732 FCAs' profile to be updated in partnership with FMFOD and other units, maintain and update the database of farm machinery utilization and conduct of data analysis and come up with plans of intervention
 - 10 FCAs developed as Models on farm machinery service provision, and rice processing enterprise - Model Farm Machinery-based Enterprise Development

Development of Farm Schools

- Farm School Establishment: 63 Farm Schools to be established
- Farm School Enhancement: 54 Farm Schools to be enhanced

Scholarship Program:

• Provision of Scholarship Vouchers: **51,050** slots to be distributed

SUCCESS STORY

Juana's Mission: Combat "Gawat" through Farming

Natural resources are significant in food security. The Philippines, being an agricultural country, is rich with fertile lands ready to be cultivated. However, it is very ironic to hear that those people who produce food for the nation are the ones who suffer poverty and hunger. This challenged a Juana to put into a mission to eradicate "gawat" (an Ilocano term for scarcity) in their community.

49

Motivation

Situated in the Ilocos Region, Mangatarem, Pangasinan is a home for a Juana with a passionate heart in serving the people. She is Lea Astrude Santiago, whose dreams to alleviate hunger and poverty turned into a mission as she changed her career path from being a politician into a farmer.

Santiago started her journey in public service at a young age. She became part of Sanggunian ng Kabataan when she was 19 years old. After that, she got elected as a barangay kagawad, then she became a councilor in Marikina for two terms. Every time she visited Pangasinan, she always noticed that their province has a large land area for growing rice. As a matter of fact, Mangatarem, her mother's hometown, is considered the rice granary of Pangasinan.

However, she got confused when she learned that farmers are in debt, bereft of enough food to eat, and lack money to buy their food – contradicting their job as food producers. Santiago was surprised when farmers attributed their problems to "gawat". It challenged and motivated her to help farmers eradicate "gawat".

Humble Beginning





The life she led was serving the people through politics. She was not interested in farming since it was preoccupied with her political advocacies. Nonetheless, upon retiring from public service in the City Government of Marikina, she realized that it is time for her to serve her mother's hometown.

She wanted to help the community not as an elective official, but as a simple private person in her ways. Her journey in agriculture started when she established the Our Farm Republic (OFR), which her family purchased in the late 1990s.

The path she took is a rocky road. She did not know much about agriculture, but her commitment, dedication, and the desires of her heart pushed her to continue what she started.

Santiago asked for barangay and municipal assistance which helped her attend training activities offered by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The training activities brought an entirely new spin in her journey as she realized that farming itself is good, but it is better if she can share knowledge with the community. That realization encouraged her to make her farm a government partner.

Currently, OFR is a DA-accredited Organic Techno-DemoFarm; a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), and a School for Practical Agriculture (SPA) of the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI); an accredited Farm Tourism Site of the Department of Tourism (DOT); and an accredited Farm School of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The farm was also certified following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in the Philippines.

Indeed, partnering with the government gave birth to a better version of OFR with a more powerful mission - combating "gawat" through knowledge sharing on modern agricultural technologies.

Our Farm Republic

Santiago personally coined "Our Farm Republic". She intentionally chose the word "our" because she wanted to depict a feeling of owning a farm to her farm visitors. Also, she set "Masayang Buhay, Masaganang Ani" as OFR's tagline.

Meanwhile, Santiago dreamed of living on a farm where she can harvest at any season. She believes that farmers should never have "gawat" season and experience hunger. They should have enough food to feed their family, share with the community, and sell. Farming for her is not about producing alone but also earning to improve the economic condition of a farmer.

Thus, she made OFR an integrated, diversified, and organic farm. It is completely planted with vegetables, herbs and spices, edible flowers, and rice. She also raises livestock and fish on her farm. Having all of these on her farm, she called themselves "Team Busog".

Programs for Rice Farmers

Her innate sense of leadership caused a ripple effect in her community. OFR, being one of over 200 farm schools nationwide, administered the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Farmer Field School (RCEF-FFS) under the Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP).

In fact, in 2020, OFR provided free training on the latest methods and technologies on producing high-quality inbred rice, seed certification, farm mechanization, and financial literacy under FFS to 75 farmers. Aside from promoting modern rice farming technologies, Santiago is also advocating good farming practices among farmers. One of which is smart financial management. Improper record-keeping is among the poor farming practices that she observed.

Farmers did not include their labor fees and rent to pay in their expenses so she made sure to emphasize it whenever she conducts training. Santiago believes that women, who are meticulous, can greatly contribute to the problem.

Reaping the Lifelong Gem

Starting with zero knowledge in agriculture, Santiago did an awesome job as she is now reaping the lifelong gem of her hard work.

"Success is knowing that, whatever it is that you believe, you can influence other people. I am not saying that our practices are the best, but I am sharing that those practices work for me, and I hope those work for you, too," she concluded.

The recognition they are receiving is priceless. However, Santiago's true gems are those farmers she trained who now combated "gawat" through farming by following her teachings and initiatives.



In Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), RCEF covered the provinces of Kalinga and Ifugao with a total inbred rice area of 20,714 ha.



Table 11. CAR disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
lfugao	М	0	8	84	0
	F	0	11	35	0
Kalinga	М	1	12	194	20
	F	0	20	106	0

ANNEXES

Ilocos Region covered four (4) RCEF provinces – Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan. They have total inbred rice area of 156,501 ha.



Table 12. Ilocos Region disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
llococ Norte	М	0	24	21	0
liocos Norte	F	0	8	3	0
llocos Sur	М	0	1	0	0
	F	0	2	0	0
Lallnian	М	0	173	22	0
	F	2	9	28	0
Pangasinan	М	4	316	100	79
	F	1	25	50	9

ANNEXES

RCEF covers four provinces in Cagayan Valley: Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino. The four provinces have a total inbred rice area of 241,682 ha.



Table 13. Cagayan Valley disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

「日本のないのかい	PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
	C	М	1	107	136	32
	Cagayan	F	2	14	14	0
Isabela	М	3	125	859	22	
	F	3	25	641	2	
Ì		М	0	240	0	2
Nueva Vizcaya	F	0	0	0	0	
Quining	М	0	65	16	0	
	Quirino	F	0	3	134	2

ANNEXES

In Central Luzon, all of its 7 provinces were covered by RCEF. They have a total area of 327,486 ha.



Table 14. Central Luzon disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
A	М	0	12	139	0
Aurora	F	1	18	61	0
Deteen	М	1	40	99	4
Bataan	F	0	3	51	2
	М	0	122	520	1
Bulacan	F	0	10	180	0
	М	40	316	384	19
NUEVA ECIJA	F	33	22	175	3
Domnonco	М	1	55	112	0
Pampanga	F	0	5	38	0
Taulaa	М	0	179	367	28
Tarlac	F	1	3	83	1
Zambalaa	М	2	64	59	2
Zambales	F	0	2	16	0

SUCCESS STORY

Estelito Puon: A Proud Farmer

"Don't be discouraged by your failure. In farming, you need to have patience and knowledge. But knowledge without patience is nothing. Patience without knowledge is useless", said Mr. Estelito Puon in an interview.

Farming as his Passion

Dr. Estelito Puon, owner of the Green Future Integrated Farm and Learning Site in Arabiat, Echague, Isabela finished a doctorate degree in Agricultural Science.

One can assume he would be pursuing a career in the academe, but Mr. Puon is a happy and proud farmer and proprietor of Green Future Integrated Farm and Learning Site and is more than grateful to share his knowledge with other farmers.



Mr. Puon left his job as an Area Manager for the Ecofuel Company as a Product Specialist in Agri-Hogs and chose to develop his farm in 2012. Farming is his passion and his practice has proven that agriculture can be profitable with patience and sound knowledge.

As a Family Venture

The strong support from his family makes Mr. Estelito Puon keep reaching for his dream to become successful in farming. Farming has helped him a lot especially in providing the daily needs of his family by making food always available on their table, freshly picked from their farm.

His wife, Fe Puon is also very supportive in all his endeavors. Their farming operation is a tandem effort. Like a conventional Filipino farming family, they built and established the farm with their two children who are both in grade school and are also involved in farming. For Mr. Puon, this is just one way of teaching and engaging his children in agriculture whom he sees as the future of his farm.

As a Learning Site for Agriculture

Strategically located in Arabiat, Echague, Green Future Integrated Farm and Learning Site is just 9 kilometers (km) away from Junction Ipil. It was certified by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) as a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in 2019.

ATI provided the LSA financial assistance amounting to Php 200,000. The fund augmented his 1.3-hectare rice farm, helped put up a deep well water system, and a poultry house. The farm is integrated with other commodities like vegetables, orchards, fish (tilapia, and hito), livestock (hogs), and native chicken.

Guests do not only enjoy the ambiance but also get the opportunity to learn about various technologies at Green Future Farm through a training session led by the humble farm owner, which is open for walkin visitors. In support of his agricultural production, Mr. Puon makes his organic concoctions (organic insecticides and foliar fertilizer). As an agriculturist himself, he discovered that hog manure is a good source of foliar fertilizer for his vegetable production.

As an LSA cooperator, Mr. Puon participated in various pieces of training conducted by the ATI to include the training of trainers on the production of high-quality inbred rice and seeds and farm mechanization in 2019. He was able to apply the knowledge and skills he acquired from the training.

Sharing His Knowledge and Skills

Making his farm sustainable, Mr. Puon is advocating for integrated farming that interrelates with all other commodities for continuous agricultural production. This maximizes the land and other resources that will make the farm productive.

To him, it is important for a farmer to continuously update himself on the latest technologies. This is why he is always open to share his knowledge and skills with his fellow farmers.

Green Future Farm offers Farmer Field School (FFS) for farmers who are interested in enhancing their knowledge in rice production using the PalayCheck system.

Mr. Puon shared his knowledge with the 250 farmer-scholars in the farmers' field school. These farmers are slowly improving their farming practices after attending the training, which eventually will help improve their productivity, reduce the cost and augment their income.

For him, one should have the passion, commitment, and knowledge to succeed.

CALABARZON has three (3) RCEF provinces and has a total inbred rice area of 41,268 ha.



Table 15. CALABARZON disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Cavite	М	0	35	0	1
	F	0	0	0	0
Laguna	М	0	117	69	7
	F	0	9	31	3
Quezon	М	0	183	178	0
	F	1	5	72	0

MIMAROPA covers three (3) RCEF provinces and has a total inbred rice area of 122,986 ha.



Table 16. MIMAROPA disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Occidental	М	0	30	56	0
Mindoro	F	0	1	44	0
Oriental Mindoro	М	1	129	0	12
	F	0	33	0	5
Palawan	М	0	60	0	0
	F	0	14	0	0

60

Bicol Region has four (4) provinces for RCEF and has a total inbred rice area of 119,469 ha.



Table 17. Bicol Region disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Albay	М	0	95	298	2
	F	0	8	263	4
Camarines Sur	М	0	73	0	11
	F	0	17	0	2
Masbate	М	0	56	0	0
	F	0	8	0	0
Sorsogon	М	1	58	0	2
	F	0	9	0	2
SUCCESS STORY

RICEng from Nothing

A public servant, Palmy Meliton, a 64-year-old rice farmer from Barangay Libas, Banga, Aklan, expands her service to the Filipino rice farmer as an educator.

Tough Start

Palmy and her husband knew that their salary as government workers is not sufficient for the needs of the family so they turn to farm as a source of extra income.

She emotionally shared how difficult it is to fit all of their tasks within 24 hours. They start the day at dawn to sow their little rice land before going to their offices. Then they spend after office hours watering and checking their fruit and vegetable garden. It was exhausting to imagine, yet, their faith in the Lord sustains them. "Indeed, God provides!" she exclaimed.

Unexpected Blessing

Her interest in agriculture particularly in rice and organic farming led to her membership to the Organic Farmer Association of Aklan (OFAA). This endeavor taught her valuable lessons in organic rice farming and opened several opportunities that paved the way to the ATI.

Her dedication, perseverance, and hard work paid off when finally, the Meliton Integrated Organic Farm, was named as one of ATI Region 6's Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in 2016.

Rising to Success

This achievement unlocked learning opportunities for Palmy. The institute invited her to join various training that hastens her craft in agriculture. Among the numerous training she attended, the Training of Trainers on Productionof High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization last 2019 was the most remarkable one because she learned to maneuver high-yield farm types of machinery, and through this, she was recognized as a Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) accredited Farm School under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

As a Farm School

As a farm school owner and a wellequipped trainer, she proudly shared that she imparted knowledge to 1,200 farmers, mostly from the first district of Aklan with the assistance of 10 other trainers.

"It is our responsibility as a farm school owner and RCEF trainer to share the lessons we have learned from the training. Aside from these lessons, I always emphasize the values of teamwork and camaraderie because these are essential ingredients to become a successful and effective trainer," Palmy added during the interview.

With so much joy in her heart, she conveyed her deepest gratitude to ATI, Department of Agriculture, and TESDA.

ANNEXES

In Western Visayas, five (5) provinces are covered by RCEF and have a total inbred rice area of 279,683 ha.



Table 18. Western Visayas disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Aklan	М	0	32	1,443	2
	F	1	13	1,057	2
Antique	М	1	25	16	3
	F	0	4	9	0
Coniz	М	0	23	150	5
Capiz	F	0	4	100	3
المالم	М	1	49	300	3
nono	F	1	11	300	2
Negros Occidental	М	0	96	38	0
	F	0	33	32	0

Central Visayas has two (2) RCEF provinces and has a total inbred rice area of 33,237 ha.



Table 19. Central Visayas disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Bohol	М	1	22	199	13
	F	2	11	101	7
Negros Oriental	М	0	43	43 296	
	F	0	25	254	0

Eastern Visayas covers four (4) RCEF provinces and has a total inbred rice area of 89,823 ha.



Table 20. Eastern Visayas disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Diliron	М	0	17	114	0
Billran	F	0	5	86	0
Louto	М	3	66	914	12
Leyte	F	0	24	1,449	3
Samar	М	2	47	391	0
Leyte M Samar M (Western Samar) F	0	10	109	0	
	М	0	16	383	0
Southern Leyte	F	0	10	267	0

In the Zamboanga Peninsula, two (2) provinces are covered by RCEF and have a total inbred rice area of 47,131 ha.



Table 21. Zamboanga Peninsula disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Zamboanga Del Sur	М	1	70	0	0
	F	2	12	0	2
Zamboanga	М	0	77	24	1
Sibugay	F	0	10	26	0

SUCCESS STORY

SALAM NATURE'S FARM: A PLACE OF PEACE

by: Sittie Norjanna U. Pala

What is Salam?

Salam is an Arabic word that means peace. A believer and non-believer of Islam would immediately think that the farm is owned and managed by a Muslim, and true indeed, it is the only Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) owned and managed by a Muslim in the region.

The LSA Cooperator

Ms. Paina T. Omar is a Muslim and a native of Sulu. She was an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who worked as a Medical Technologist in Saudi Arabia for more than 20 years.

She is well paid in her profession but she wanted to invest her earnings wisely and retire in her chosen career happily. Paina decided to buy agricultural land with an area of 5.9 ha, for a potential start. Born and raised in a typical family, Ms. Omar had a little background in farming.

a-Chilli Sauce Chilli Hot Sauce Chilli Garlic

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ot Sauc

Banana-(

From past time to full-time

During her past time and day-offs, she used to play electronic games such as FarmVille and Plants vs. Zombies both involving planting activities which also helped trigger the idea of cultivating her acquired property.

She then started her research online, and browse tutorial videos on the basics of farming. Her research took her to the YouTube channel of the Costales Nature Farm, one of ATI's Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in Luzon, and immediately got inspired by it.

During her vacation in the Philippines, she visited the farm and attended the training. She came back to her hometown at Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, with her pockets full of plans and dreams for her land after visiting Costales Nature Farm.

Paina started to develop her farm little by little while working in Saudi Arabia. In 2017, back for good, Paina acquired another training at the Costales Nature Farm and purchased machines for her farm development such as tractors, shredders, and other equipment.

Relax despite the setbacks

She ventured into duck raising and bought 700 heads, but it failed due to a long drought in 2018. Losing around Php 200,000 from this setback, Paina continued her journey with her "never surrender" mantra.

Despite the financial challenges, Paina, and her business partner, now the Salam Farm Manager, Mr. Juanito Lopez P. Tagtong came up with a very spicy upturn.

The partners ventured into chili cultivation and planted over 10,000 hills of the reaper variety in the idle part of their land. Fortunately, the hot idea worked out!

They were able to harvest and sell their products online and everything went on from there until Salam became known for its chili products and by-products. Aside from duck raising and chili production, they also ventured into rice farming, dedicating a 2 ha area of their land for rice farming.

Journey of becoming RCEF LSA

With their goal to help other farmers, they applied as LSA and were accredited in 2020. Later on, they became a Farm School and a beneficiary of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP), where they received a grant amounting to Php 300,000.00.

Salam was given 100 slots for scholarship under the RCEF Modified Farmers Field School on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization.

Through determination and perseverance, the farm earns, the farmers learn, and now, they are preparing to acquire 18 more qualifications all related to agriculture.

Despite the challenges, Salam remains true to itself, indeed it is a place of peace.



Northern Mindanao covers four (4) RCEF provinces and has a total inbred rice area of 69,128 ha.



Table 22. Northern Mindanao disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and
other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Rukidnon	М	0	82	264	14
Bukianon	F	0	23	336	4
Lanao Del	М	0	36	62	3
Norte	F	0	8	48	2
Misamis	М	1	50	103	1
Occidental	F	0	7	97	3
Misamis Oriental	М	2	16	70	3
	F	0	1	54	0

ANNEXES

In Davao, four (4) provinces are covered by RCEF with a total inbred rice area of 55,841 ha.



Table 23. Davao Region disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
	М	0	30	104	4
Davao De Oro	F	0	0	46	0
Davias Dal Cur	М	1	56	38	0
Davao Dei Sui	F	1	4	11	0
Davao Del	М	1	30	0	0
Norte	F	0	3	0	0
Davao Oriental	М	1	36	53	5
	F	0	8	45	5

SOCCSKSARGEN covers four (4) RCEF provinces and has a total inbred rice area of 152,631 ha.



Table 24. SOCCKSARGEN disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and otherextension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
North	М	0	73	43	17
Cotabato	F	0	7	15	3
· · ·	М	0	28	130	0
Sarangani	F	0	0	70	0
South	М	2	141	1,121	0
Cotabato	F	1	13	879	0
Sultan Kudarat	М	0	25	0	34
	F	0	4	0	7

CARAGA has three (3) provinces under RCEF and has a total inbred rice area of 60,146 ha.



 Table 25. CARAGA disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED	OTHER EXTENSION INTERMEDIARIES TRAINED
Agusan Del	М	1	40	152	4
Norte	F	0	19	219	0
Agusan Del Sur	М	0	68	0	5
	F	0	4	0	1
Surigao Del Sur	М	0	57	114	4
	F	1	4	86	2

SUCCESS STORY

"In 2013, I was encouraged to apply as one of the pioneer Learning Sites of Agriculture (LSA) in Region 12. Fortunately, our farm was certified and we started with the ATI 12 through Adopt-a-Farm Youth and other extension activities. In the next few years, we stepped up as ATI's accredited School for Practical Agriculture and DOT's accredited Farm Tourism Destination.

To pursue our passion to reach out to more farmers and realize the dream of helping to improve their farming practices, we applied as a Farm School of the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and was successfully accredited, offering qualifications on Organic Agriculture Production NC II, Rice Machinery Operations NC II, Animal Production NC II, among others.

Growing up in a family of farmers, I saw the struggles of Filipino smallholder farmers, so when I heard about RCEF, I was delighted and hopeful.

Sometime in September last year, rice farmers cried out for help due to the plunging farmgate price of fresh palay, hitting as low as Php 12.00/kg in most traders. As a farm school owner, I saw a silver lining. The RCEF program is very timely in addressing the plight of our farmers and food security in general.

I was given the chance to help improve rice farmers' competitiveness through the RCEF Modified Farmers' Field School (FFS) on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Certification, and Farm Mechanization and Rice Machinery Operations (RMO) NC II scholarship allocation of TESDA.

Through the help of more than twenty (20) passionate and dedicated trainers, including some Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs) in the Municipality of Pigcawayan, we were able to successfully conduct twenty batches of FFS with 600 rice farmer scholars and three (3) batches of Rice Machinery Operations NC II, catering the area of North Cotabato Province. Farmers in Barangay Barangiran in Alamada town were grateful for the RCEF program since it was their very first time to receive a government program in support of rice production.

Following the PalayCheck System, their yield increased and it was evident during the HarvestFestival.Farmer-members of Bulucaon Irrigators Association (IA) in Pigcawayan Town, on the other hand, applied the learning they got from FFS. Using a walk-behind rice transplanter, they find it easier and efficient to transplant rice compared to manual practice.

Farmers were hesitant at first but at present, they are serving four Barangays and seven (7) hectares of their rice area are planted using a walk-behind rice transplanter.

I am inspired to keep pushing forward seeing the effect and impacts of this RCEF Rice Extension Services Program (RESP) in the lives of the farmers at the grassroots level. It helped change the mindset of our rice farmers. Through this program, augmented yield, and lowered cost of rice production is attainable. Through this project and the continued active partnerships between and among the implementing agencies, we can rise and realize a food-secure country.

Our implementation of the RCEF-RESP through the FFS, like any other farm school in the country, has ups and downs. But we are resilient. We can rise amidst the adversities of life.



Gregorio B. Saljay III LSA Cooperator and Farm School Owner GBS III Agro Farm School Barangay Presbitero, Pigcawayan, Cotabato

ANNEXES

RCEF covered two (2) BARMM provinces with a total inbred rice area of 91,460 ha.



Table 26. BARMM disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED	FARMERS TRAINED
Lanao Del Sur	М	0	14	0
	F	0	6	0
Maguindanao	М	1	16	43
	F	0	1	0

ANNEXES



These include those provinces outside the 57 RCEF-identified provinces.

Table 27. Non-Priority Provinces disaggregated data of specialists, trainers, farmers and
other extension intermediaries trained

PROVINCE	SEX	SPECIALISTS TRAINED	TRAINERS TRAINED
Specialists	М	0	14
Trainers	F	0	6
Farmers	М	1	16
Other Extension Intermediaries	F	0	1

S-CURVE

The S-Curve of RCEF – RESP is a representation of the program's performance relative to its target for the whole timeline of its implementation. It shows the direction and gaps of the implementation to capture good practices and provides recommendations to address certain deviations. For the case of RCEF-RESP, the representation of S-Curve is segmented per implementing unit and related to its corresponding components (Figure 8-12).

Each component has a % financial weight on the total allocated funds for the programs which are the basis for segmenting the physical performance of RCEF-RESP in general. The physical accomplishments were based on major input indicators that represent each component. Thus, the annual S-Curve may not fully represent the overall activities per component but the major activities of the program instead.

Table 6. FY 2019-2022 Financial Allocation and % Weight per Implementing Unit & Component (in Php '000)

Implementing Unit	Implementing Components Unit		FY 2019		FY 2020		FY 2021		2	TOTAL	
		Amount (Php '000)	%	Amount (Php '000)	%	Amount (Php '000)	%	Amount (Php '000)	%	Amount (Php '000)	%
TOTAL RCEF	GRAND TOTAL	1,000,000	100	1,000,000	100	1,000,000	100	1,000,000	100	4,000,000	
	Training	154,225	15	166,416	17	146,671	15	186,850	19	654,162	16
	Strategic Communication	119,875	12	106,085	11	98,579	10	66,000	7	390,539	10
	Enterprise Development Assistance	13,000	1	12,649	1	40,000	4	30,000	3	95,649	2
	Development of Farm Schools	12,900	1	14,850	1	14,750	1	17,150	2	59,650	1
	Scholarship Program	700,000	70	700,000	70	700,000	70	700,000	70	2,800,000	70
ΑΤΙ	TOTAL	100,000	10	100,000	10	100,000	10	100,000	10	400,000	
	Training	49,550	32	49,735	30	56,470	39	76,850	41	232,605	58
	Strategic Communication	37,550	31	35,415	33	28,780	29	6,000	9	107,745	27
	Development of Farm Schools	12,900	100	14,850	100	14,750	100	17,150	100	59,650	15

PHILRICE	TOTAL	100,000	10	100,000	10	100,000	10	100,000	10	400,000	
	Training	40,675	26	52,330	31	50,201	34	70,000	37	213,206	53
	Strategic Communication	59,325	49	47,670	45	49,799	51	30,000	45	186,794	47
PHILMECH	TOTAL	100,000	10	100,000	10	100,000	10	100,000	10	400,000	
	Training	64,000	41	64,351	39	40,000	27	40,000	21	208,351	52
	Strategic Communication	23,000	19	23,000	22	20,000	20	30,000	45	96,000	24
	Enterprise Development Assistance	13,000	100	12,649	100	40,000	100	30,000	100	95,649	24
TESDA	TOTAL	700,000	70	700,000	70	700,000	70	700,000	70	2,800,000	
	Scholarship Program	700,000	100	700,000	100	700,000	100	700,000	100	2,800,000	100



Training Component S-CURVE









For the Training Component, ATI and PhilRice accomplished **120%** and **128%** of their target training activities while PHilMech achieved **31%**. The high accomplishment for both ATI and PhilRice was attributed to shifting to a blendedlearning methodology and increasing the number of batches with lesser participants.

Ontheotherhand, PhilMech's underperformance was attributed to the nature of their training being affected by the LGU restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHilMech pushed through with the face-to-face training methodology since training on operations and maintenance of various rice machinery cannot be properly inculcated with the participants without hands-on activities (Figure 3-6).

Strategic Communications Service S-CURVE











For the Strategic Communications Service Component, both ATI (118%) and PHilMech (145%) posted high accomplishments due to the carried-over materials produced from 2019 that were distributed during the 1st quarter of 2020. On the other hand, failed procurement of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials affected PhilRice's (53%) performance (53%) as seen in Figure 9.

Enterprise Development Assistance S-CURVE



The Enterprise Development Assistance (EDA) Component's performance in 2020 was fully attributed to PHilMech. Figure 11 shows that their performance **(63%)** was affected by the restrictions brought by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Development of Farm School Component was solely implemented by ATI posting **303%** performance under farm schools established. The overaccomplishment of Farm School establishments was attributed to the need to establish additional Farm Schools in areas with lesser or no training providers.

Scholarship Program S-CURVE



With the largest fund allocation, the Scholarship Program Component implemented by TESDA posted a stellar **107%** on the scholarships slots distributed. The overperformance was due to CY 2019 unfunded scholarship targets being obligated under the unobligated allotment of CY 2020.

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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