OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURIST'S OFFICE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

PGOM-PAGO holds 3rd Farmers and Fisherfolk Day for 2023



Governor Humerlito "Bonz" A. Dolor addresses the participants to the Farmers' and Fisherfolk Day (top left photo). Bagorra Farmers Agriculture Cooperative from Bansud one of the beneficiaries to receive water pumps (top right), Bagong Buhay FA from Naujan one of the beneficiaries of rice combine harvester under RCEF (lower right). Governor Bonz Dolor with SP Members, PhilMech Director Joel Dator, and DA Regional Director Ma. Christine Inting, and Provincial Agriculturist's Christine M. Pine with farmer beneficiaries of four-wheel tractors (center) and hand tractors (left).

The Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro through the Additional interventions included 17 pumps and engines, 5 hand Provincial Agriculturist's Office conducted the Farmers' and tractors with trailers, and 741 knapsack sprayers. For fisherfolk, Fisherfolk Day on November 27, 2023 at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan, Calapan City. This is the third Farmers' and Fisherfolk Day event hosted by the Provincial Government which benefitted a total of 390 farmer and fisherfolk associations in all municipalities and city of the province.

agricultural and fishery sectors. Rice farmers received 30,000 laminated sacks and 1,900 units of organic fertilizer, while corn farmers were given 147 OPV corn seeds and 135 sweet corn seeds. Fruit tree growers were provided with 41,600 seedlings such as calamansi, banana, rambutan, lanzones, cacao, among others, alongside 50 planting tools and equipment, including pruning shears and handheld cordless chainsaws. Vegetable farmers received 18,575 assorted vegetable seeds, and 900 plastic crates. Organic farmers were provided with 1,500 organic assorted vegetable seeds, 400 liters of molasses, and 5,934 planting tools. Indigenous People (IP) farmers received 300 indigenous vegetable seeds, 402 root crop planting materials, and 82 planting tools and equipment.

various fishery inputs were supplied, this includes bottom set gill net, multiple hook and line, fish traps, buoy markers, PE ropes, tarpaulin, organic fertilizer, agrilime, tea seeds, HDPE fish crate, plastic crates, and styrofoam insulated boxes. Meanwhile, Bantay Dagat members were given 415 patrolling gears, including Bantay A wide array of interventions was provided to support the Dagat uniforms, megaphones, flashlights, binoculars, and life vests.

> Furthermore, as part of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHILMECH) and PGOM distributed 17 four-wheel tractors, 2 rice precision seeders, 3 riding-type transplanters, and 33 combine harvesters to 52 farmer cooperatives and associations.

> These diverse interventions demonstrate a holistic approach to addressing the specific needs of farmers and fisherfolks, reflecting the province's unwavering commitment for the sustainable development of its agricultural and fishery sectors.



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PAGO organizes Youth Camp for OrMin 4H Clubs

By MMalaza and VGracia

In a bid to equip the youth with vital agricultural skills and foster unity among 4H Club members, the Provincial Agriculturist's Office hosted a dynamic two-day Provincial Youth Camp. The event, held on August 2-3, 2023, at the Gabutero Organic Farm and Resort in Bongabong, saw the enthusiastic participation of 105 4H club members from different municipalities of the province.

The camp featured an array of activities aimed at providing the youth with practical skills and knowledge related to modern agricultural technologies. Mr. Mark Jayson S. Alcobera of the Agricultural Training Institute delivered insightful lectures on Digital Marketing, while Mr. Allan Jun F. Malicsi shed light on the critical topic of Mental Health Awareness, recognizing the holistic needs of the participants.

The engaging program included various competitions such as On-the-spot mobile photography, 4H short film, 4H Tik Tok, and Plant and Animal Identification. These competitions showcased the participants' creativity and skills, adding an element of excitement to the camp.

A Candle Lighting Ceremony, a cherished tradition among 4H Clubs, took place during the first evening, instilling a sense of continuity and tradition. The Socials Night, featuring the crowning of Mr. and Ms. 4H Oriental Mindoro, brought glamour and entertainment to the event, with Mr. Rocel King James D. Labaguis of Bansud and Ms. Hanna Allysa A. Atienza of Victoria claiming the coveted titles.

Beyond the titles, participants were recognized for their achievements in different categories. Notable winners included Alexander Caganan of Gloria for Short Film, Jake Empasis of Gloria for On-the-Spot photography, John Raven Lumabi of Socorro for Tiktok Video Making, and Lerma de Guzman and Danica Fababaer of Naujan for Plants and Animal Identification.

Expressing his gratitude, Marc June T. Fajutnao, 4H Federated President, emphasized the significance of this being the first major activity for 4H clubs, post-pandemic. The event received an added sense of prestige with the presence of Hon. Elgin Malaluan, Bongabong Municipal Mayor.

The Provincial Youth Camp emerged as a holistic experience, successfully combining educational sessions, competitions, and traditional activities, leaving a lasting impact on the youth participants and setting the stage for future endeavors in modern agriculture.



4H club members and Municipal 4H Coordinators gathers for a group photo (left photo), participants in the Mr. and Ms. 4H in their farm hero outfit (right photo).

PGOM-PAGO spearheads successful KADIWA ng Pangulo Event

By JALogmao

In support to the nationwide implementation of *KADIWA ng Pangulo* (KNP), the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro, through the Provincial Agriculturist's Office in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), , hosted a successful event on July 17, 2023, at the Provincial Capitol Complex grounds in Camilmil, Calapan City.

The KNP initiative, which translates to "Katuwang Sa Diwa at Gawa Para sa Masaganang Ani At Mataas na Kita", aims to provide consumers with affordable yet high-quality goods while facilitating market access for farmers and micro-enterprises. Eighteen exhibitors, including Farmer Associations, MSMEs, Citimart Island Mall, and NFA, showcased their products during the event.

The event witnessed the active participation of Governor Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor who led the ceremonial ribbon cutting to officially open the *Kadiwa* Market. Also present during this occasion are Vice Governor Ejay Falcon, DILG Provincial Director Maria Victoria J. Del Rosario, DA MIMAROPA APCO Artemio Casareno, DTI Representative Ms. Fely Joy C. Dinglasan, NFA Representative Ms. Asela P. Infantado, and Provincial Agriculturist Christine M. Pine.

This collaborative effort by the Provincial Government and its partner agencies highlighted the commitment to replicate such initiatives, ensuring a consistent supply of fresh produce to local consumers. The bigger goal is to promote locally manufactured products and foster market access for farmers and MSMEs, further contributing to the economic growth of Oriental Mindoro.

Simultaneous to the event, PAGO has awarded agricultural carts to two Farmer Associations actively involved in organic farming, namely, the *Samahang Pangkabuhayan ng Iligan* and the Farmville Farmers Association for Upland Organics. These mobile agricultural carts are intended to streamline the marketing and sales processes for the organic products produced by these beneficiary FAs.



Gov. Bonz Dolor checks on fresh produce from one of the participating exhibitors during the Kadiwa ng Pangulo.

Empowering calamansi farmers: Balik Scientist lead training on pest management

By MRamos and VJSanchez



Dr. Bajet (5th from right) and participants in one of the calamansi farms they have visited in Mabuhay, Socorro.

To further enhance the skills and knowledge of calamansi farmers, the Provincial Agriculturist's Office in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) organized a training program featuring Dr. Narceo B. Bajet, a distinguished crop protection expert. The "Training on Calamansi Insect Pests and Diseases Management" was conducted from August 1-3, 2023, and participated by 62 farmers and Agricultural Extension Workers coming from the different municipalities of Oriental Mindoro.

Dr. Bajet, a seasoned plant pathologist and Balik Scientist, brought a wealth of experience to the training. He was a former faculty member of the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines – Los Baños, and a senior scientist in Eurofins STA Laboratories in Colorado, USA.

The training kicked off with an insightful lecture by Dr. Bajit on the identification, prevention, control, and management of calamansi diseases. He provided farmers with crucial insights into recognizing and addressing potential threats to their crops. The second and third days of the program featured field visits to calamansi farms in Calapan, Naujan, Victoria, and Socorro, offering participants a hands-on learning experience in disease identification, detection, and diagnosis. During the field visits, Dr. Bajit shared practical tips on effective management and control measures for calamansi diseases.

Adding to the expertise of the training, Mr. Solo Arman Mercene, a Fulbright Scholar and former entomologist from the Regional Crop Protection Center, also served as a resource speaker.

The initiative reflects the continued dedication of PAGO to boost the resilience and productivity of the calamansi industry. Apart from emphasizing the importance of continuous learning PAGO is continually providing intervention for calamansi farmers through distribution of agri-inputs, plastic crates, and farm equipment. •

PGOM-PAGO RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING



Governor Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor addresses farmers, fisherfolk and participants during the Araw ng Parangal held on November 13, 2023 at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan (left photo). One of the highlights during the Araw ng Parangal is the recognition of outstanding rice farmers, organic agriculture achievers and best performing Bantay Dagat Groups in the province. Photos on right are the plaque awarded to the winners.

Parangal held on November 13, 2023 at the Bulwagang and practice of organic farming, PAGO launched the inaugural Panlalawigan, Provincial Capitol Complex, Calapan City. The Provincial Organic Agriculture Achievers Award (POAAA). The event celebrates the success of these individuals as POAAA serves as a platform for knowledge sharing, and exemplary farming practitioners and acknowledging their substantial contributions to the province's food security.

The Provincial Government through the Provincial Agriculturist's Office led by Provincial Agriculturist Christine M. Pine, organized three (3) awards and recognition activities that will bring the best out of each farmer and fisherfolk group. This includes the Provincial Rice Achievers' Award, the Provincial Organic Agriculture Achievers' Award and the Recognition for the Best Performing Bantay Dagat Group. Cash prizes ang plaques were awarded to the winners and participating individuals and groups.

The PRAA is a biennial activity of PAGO, and the 2023 edition saw the participation of 27 farmer contenders coming from the different municipalities of the province. Farmer contenders vied for the highest yield in inbred and hybrid categories. PAgO's Rice Program implementors led by Mr. Venerando M. Sanchez, Jr., OIC Agro-Technology Resource Management Division; Engr. Jefte Bay-ongan, Provincial Rice Coordinator; and Ms. Leizel L. Grantoza, Provincial Rice Report Officer spearheaded the PRAA 2021.

Farmers and fisherfolk come centerstage during the Araw nq In recognition of the outstanding contributions to the adoption showcasing of best practices among OA practitioners. Outstanding OA practitioners are recognized in various categories such as Most Outstanding OA Young Farmer, Most Outstanding Small OA Farmer Individual, Most Outstanding OA Farmers' Group. Engr. Christian M. Generato, OA Coordinator and Ms. Judy Ann Vallejo spearheaded the 1st POAAA. DA-MIMAROPA extends agri-input support to major awardees.

> The recognition of best managed and best performing Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Council and Bantay Dagat Teams has been a regular undertaking of PAGO, however due to oil spill incident, the award and recognition was focused on the Bantay Dagat Groups. Furthermore, two MPAs in the province which were recently adjudged as winners in the 2023 PARA EL MAR Awards held at Mandaue City, Cebu were also given special citation and recognition during the Araw ng Parangal. The PARA EL MAR Awards is a national competition honoring the best locally managed MPAs and MPA networks in the country.

> Validation process to determine the winners were conducted by PAGO personnel from August to October of this year.

FARMERS AND BANTAY DAGAT GROUPS



Selected group pictures of the winners in the Provincial Rice Achievers Awards, 1st Provincial Organic Agriculture Achievers Awards and Best Performing Bantay Dagat Groups. Mr. Joel Amparo from Gloria, winner in the Hybrid Category in PRAA (top right), Maasin Marine Protected Area, Bulalacao declared 6th Runner-up in Best Locally Managed MPA during the PARA El MAR Awards (top left), Mr. Marvin Albufera, Most Outstanding Organic Agriculture Young Farmer from Naujan (right), and Bantay Dagat Group Gloria adjudged as the Best Performing Bantay Dagat Group in Oriental Mindoro.

Provincial Rice Achievers Awards

Inbred Category Winners:

Winner: Farmer: Mr. Patriotico N. Pachecho from Roxas (P60,000)

MAO: Ms. Nerissa C. Gutierrez (P17,500) AEW: Mr. Domingo F. Galindez (P17,500)

2nd Place: Farmer: Mr. Crispulo H. Mutiangpili from Baco (P45,000)

MAO: Mr. Hilario R. Bacay (P12,500) AEW: Ms. Sonia R. Bartolabac (P12,500)

3rd place: Farmer: Ms. Celina R. Valenton from Calapan (P30,000)

MAO: Ms. Lorelein Sevilla (P8,750) AEW: Ms. Risha Joice P. Marasigan (8,750)

Hybrid Category Winners:

Winner: Farmer: Mr. Joel C. Amparo from Gloria (P60,000)

MAO: Mr. August F. Mantaring (P17,500) AEW: Ms. Maria Pacita L. Magsisi (P17,500)

2nd Place: Farmer: Mr. Edilberto D. Faner from Bongabong (P45,000)

MAO: Mr. Gary Louie A. Sapinit (P12,500) AEW: Ms. Ornalyn G. Angeles (P12,500)

3rd Place: Farmer: Mr. Guido C. Bagsic from Calapan City (P30,000)

MAO: Ms. Lorelein Sevilla (P8,750) AEW: Ms. Grace T. Mante (P8,750)

1st Provincial Organic Agriculture Achievers Awards

Most Outstanding Small OA Farmer Individual:

Winner: Mr. Apolinario Villanueva from Bongabong (P35,000) 2nd Place: Mr. Dominador V. Remendado Jr. from Socorro (P25,000)

3rd Place: Mr. Jonjon B. Sarmiento from Victoria (P15,000)

Most Outstanding OA Young Farmer: Mr. Marvien Albufera from Naujan (P35,000)

Most Outstanding OA Farmers' Group:

Winner: Mindoro Organic Farmers Association (P100,000) 2nd Place: Malugay Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (P50,000) 3rd Place: Mina De Oro Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose

Cooperative (P30,000)

Most Supportive Municipal Agriculturist: Mr. Gary Louie A. Sapinit from Bongabong (P15,000)

Most Supportive Organic Agriculture Focal Person: Mr. Greg C. Abrenica from Bongabong (P15,000)

Best Performing Bantay Dagat Group and Recognition of MPA Mangement Councils

Best Perfoming Bantay Dagat Group

Winner: Bantay Dagat Group of Gloria (P60,000) 2nd Place: Bantay Dagat Association of Naujan (P40,000) 3rd Place: San Teodoro Bantay Dagat Association (P30,000) 4th Place: Pola Bantay Dagat Federation (P25,000)

Bahaghari Bantay Dagat, Pinamalayan (P25,000)

5th Place: Mansalay Bantay Dagat Group (P20,000)

2023 PARA EL MAR Awardees

1st Runner-up Best Locally Managed MPA
Ranzo Fish Sanctuary, Ranzo, Pinamalayan
6th Runner-up Best Locally Managed MPA
Maasin Marine Protected Area, Maasin, Bulalacao

PAGO conducts training on fruit production and management By MMalaza and CManongsong



Participants gathers for a group photo during their farm tour and hands - on exercises at the Provincial Demo Farm in Merit, Victoria.

The Provincial Agriculturist's Office conducted a training on Fruit Production and Management with Emphasis on NSIC Variety Registration, Nursery Accreditation, and Plant Material Certification on October 12-13, 2023. The event, held at the 88 Hotel and Event Center in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, and the Provincial Demo Farm in Merit, Victoria, aimed to update 30 fruit tree growers, nursery operators, and Municipal High-Value Crops Coordinators from various municipalities on the latest technology in fruit production and plant nursery management.

The training included lectures, farm tour, and hands-on demonstrations at the Provincial Demo Farm. Ms. Aurora L. De Guzman, Senior Agriculturist from the Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered lectures on plant nursery accreditation, plant material certification, NSIC variety registration, accreditation processes, fruit trees propagation, and the latest technologies in nursery management and operations. While, Ms. Lorna A. Cepillo, Area Manager of BPI — National Plant Quarantine Services, addressed quarantine concerns related to the movement of plants and planting materials providing valuable insights into ensuring the health and safety of the plants within the province.

Participants had the opportunity to observe operations at the Provincial Demo Farm, gaining insights into best practices employed in the nursery. Personnel from the Provincial Agriculturist's Office demonstrated plant propagation techniques and discussed innovative approaches to nursery management.

The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange, fostering collaboration among industry stakeholders. By keeping abreast of evolving regulations and incorporating the latest technologies, participants are better equipped to contribute to the growth and sustainability of the plant nursery and fruit production sector in Oriental Mindoro.

PAGO empowers farmers through Innovative Processing Technique By MMalaza and MAJoco

In a proactive move to enhance the capabilities of local farmers, the Provincial Agriculturist's Office (PAgO) conducted a comprehensive four-day training on Value Addition of Agricultural Commodities of Oriental Mindoro. The event took place from July 24 to 28, 2023, at the Agri-processing Center of the Provincial Demo Farm in Merit, Victoria.

Collaborating with the Department of Science and Technology Provincial Office, PAgO aimed to empower farmers by imparting valuable skills in developing innovative products. A total of 40 participants, predominantly members of Rural Based Organizations and processors from various municipalities, were engaged in the training. The focus was on the development of value-added products, such as calamansi ginger tea, calamansi muffins, rice crispies, rice polvoron, rice coffee, coconut macaroons, banana bread, banana flour, banana peel cookies, and dehydrated mango. Additionally, participants were introduced to the intricacies of wine production using various commodities like rice, *bignay*, and dragon fruit.

Leading the hands-on training and processing of these innovative products were Engr. Manilyn A. Joco, Engr. Honna Mae Dimapilis, and Ms. Jeziel Casapao of the Provincial Agriculturist's Office. Complementing the practical sessions, Mr. Jesse M. Pine and Ms. Christine Caringal of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) delivered lectures on crucial aspects such as entrepreneurship, packaging and labelling, and Good Manufacturing Practices.

The training underscored the presence of operational processing facilities, such as the Food Innovation Center in MIN-SCAT Calapan City and PAgO's Agri-Processing Center in Merit, Victoria. These facilities serve as positive catalysts, encouraging farmers and entrepreneurs to explore vast opportunities in value addition.



Actual hands-on exercise of one of the innovative value added product developed during the training.

PAGO NEWSLETTER

PAGO, MFI raise MPA awareness among youth

By MAlcañices and MGuntan

To promote the importance of Marine Protected Areas, the Provincial Agriculturist's Office in partnership with the Malampaya Foundation, Inc. conducted the Environmental Youth Action Camp which was participated by 115 senior high school and college students coming from the different municipalities of the province. This activity has been regularly conducted by PAGO and MFI to educate and strengthen the youth's passion in the conservation and protection of coastal and marine habitat.

The Environmental Youth Action Camp was conducted in two batches on August 1-4 and August 8-11, 2023 at El Pueblo Rhizort, Calapan City. The three-day camp enriched the participants' knowledge and awareness on coastal habitats and the several factors that pose threats to its existence. They were likewise toured on different habitat ecosystems such as beach forest and mangrove, seagrass and reef to give them better appreciation of its importance. Other topics that were discussed are Marine Protected Areas, Environmental and Fishery Laws, Solid Waste Management, Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw and its habitat, as well as topics on disaster risk reduction and basic life support training.

The facilitating team were led by Ms. Marilyn M. Alcañices, Division Chief of PAGO's Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Division. Other facilitators are technical staff from PAGO and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, as well as representatives from MFI and the youth organization *Kabataan Para sa Kalikasan*.

Similarly, PAGO has also conducted Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns among elementary students to raise awareness on MPA protection. On March 22, 2023 IEC was conducted in four elementary schools in the municipality of Gloria namely, Balete Elementary School, Tambong Elementary School, Agsalin Elementary School, and Sta. Theresa Elementary School.

Barangays Tambong, Agsalin, and Sta. Theresa has existing MPAs.



Environmental Youth Camp participants coming from the province's 1st District.

PAGO, ATI pursues roadmap for OrMin priority commodities By MMalaza & SCruzado



Key stakeholders of the coconut industry in Oriental Mindoro gathers for a group photo, November 8, 2023.

The Provincial Agriculturist's Office in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute – MIMAROPA embarked to establish commodity industry roadmaps of priority commodities of Oriental Mindoro that includes coconut, banana, onion, bangus and tilapia, and swine. On October 6, 2023, ATI-MIMAROPA awarded the Provincial Government through PAGO with P1.198M financial assistance for the conduct of the road mapping activities.

On November 8-10, 2023, PAGO conducted the Roadmap Development for the Coconut Industry in Oriental Mindoro at Vencio's Garden Hotel, Calapan City. The three-day activity was participated by a total of 66 stakeholders from among coconut farmers, processors, traders, Municipal Agricultural Offices, Academe, and National Government Agencies. While, the Roadmap Development for Bangus and Tilapia Industry was conducted on November 22-24, 2023 at Calapan City and was attended by 64 participants from the key stakeholders of aquaculture industry in the province.

A commodity roadmap is intended as a set of strategies, programs, and specific activities aimed at achieving targets and objectives shared among stakeholders at all levels of the value chain. And this has been pursued by PAGO and ATI as part of the implementation of the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) in the province.

Roadmapping activities for the remaining commodities will be conducted on the 1st quarter of 2024. PAGO has so far completed the Calamansi Industry Roadmap which was developed in partnership with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Department of Agriculture. •

Food Innovation Festival 2023: Lutong Mindoreño

By VJSanchez and MRamos



Student chefs competing for the Most Innovative Chef rushes to pick on their ingredients (right photo), participants to the Most Innovative Agricultural Food Product in front of their prepared product highlighting key agricultural commodities in the province such as calamansi and banana (left photo), and pictures below shows some of the dishes prepared by the Most Innovative Chefs.



The Province of Oriental Mindoror celebrated its 73rd founding amount of P17,000 and P15,000 respectively. P7,000 consolation anniversary, known as "FIESTA MAHAL TANA" from November 13 to prizes were also awarded to the participating schools. 15, 2023. One of the main activities was the Food Innovation Festival, orchestrated by the Provincial Agriculturist's Office. This marked the third iteration of the festival, dubbed "Food Innovation Festival: Lutong Mindoreño," which unfolded on November 14 at the Divine Word College of Calapan (DWCC).

The Food Innovation Festival aims to elevate culinary standards by integrating key agricultural commodities from Oriental Mindoro, including calamansi, banana, coconut, and other emerging fruits. The event featured two prominent competitions: the Most Innovative Chef - Culinary Competition and the Most Innovative Agricultural Food Product – Exhibit, Presentation, and Competition.

In the Most Innovative Chef competition, 11 college schools participated, each fielding two contestants. Simultaneously, 14 senior high schools engaged in the Most Innovative Agricultural Food Product competition, with two representatives per school.

The City College of Calapan secured the top honors in the Most Innovative Chef category. While, Leuteboro National High School emerged victorious in the Most Innovative Agricultural Food Product category. They received plaque and cash prizes in the

Overall, the event was hailed as a triumph, with participants demonstrating exemplary knowledge and skills. The Food Innovation Festival stands as a testament to Oriental Mindoro's commitment to culinary excellence and sustainable agricultural practices, blending tradition and innovation to create a vibrant cultural tapestry.

Most Innovative Chef Category:

Champion, Best Main Dish and Best Dessert: City College of Calapan

Best Appetizer: Southwestern College of Maritime, Business, and Technology, Inc.

Most Innovative Agricultural Food Product Category:

Champion and Best Calamansi Product: Leuteboro National **High School**

1st Runner-up and Best Coconut Product: Alcadesma National High School

2nd Runner-up: Dangay National High School

Best Banana Product: San Teodoro National High School