

ViCARP

January-June 2010

Highlights



Thirty one years of working towards making a difference in the lives of the farmers, fisher folk and other stakeholders in Eastern Visayas



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About the cover:

The couple are food entrepreneurs interested to buy the Protos, an environment-friendly stove that could be fired with used oil. Also in the picture are samples of PhilRootcrops-developed Pinoy fries or sweet potato (SP) fries that was cooked using the Protos. Protos is one of the technologies developed by scientists of the Visayas State University (VSU) with funds from Bosch and Siemens and Hohenheim University of Germany.



The beauty of EO 801

For more than 10 years, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) has actively and diligently pushed the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) with the noble objective of bringing the results of R and D efforts to the doorstep of farmers, especially the “grassroots”, for according to the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos “they are the reason why governments exist.”

With the ardent efforts of the 14 R and D consortia, the TGP has also been embraced by many local government units (LGUs). Many LGUs have considered the TG program as a “mannah,” an answer to their quest for technical backstopping for their agriculture, forestry, and natural resources programs, and even for fisheries.

At the initial stage, though, the TGP implementation was moving slowly in many regions. However, after 10 years, when many LGUs have seen the beauty of the TGP services, the consortia have been poured with requests from mayors, governors and even congressmen for the immediate implementation of the TGP in their area. Some municipal agriculturists and even provincial agriculturists have become emotional during fora when they realized that they seemed to be left behind because of the lack of support from their political leaders.

With Executive Order 801 that prescribes the implementation of TGP in the local government units in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through the state universities and colleges (SUCs), it has become easy for the municipal agricultural officers (MAOs), city agricultural officers (CAOs) and the provincial agricultural officers (PAOs) to convince their respective LGUs to support the program, so that their service clientele could partake of the benefits of TGP services.

EO 801 came about because of PCARRD's efforts that fortunately got the support from champions at the House of Representative and the Senate and from DOST Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro.

Now, PCARRD has moved towards weaning out TGP coordination to the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) of DA. The move is reasonable because, under the AFMA, ATI is supposed to be DA's extension arm and is mandated to help the LGUs in their extension activities. This was ViCARP's and RRDEN's basis for giving the TGP coordination role to the VSU-based ATI, hence the weaning out thing is easy for ViCARP since this system has worked well starting in January 2000 until today.

With EO 801, it is hoped that all LGUs in the country would embrace the TGP program so that it would be easy for our farmers, fisher folk and entrepreneurs to get access to R and D information and products. Most importantly, through TGP, the millions invested in research will not be put to naught.

Let us all congratulate the authors and initiators of TGP. Let us all say KUDOS to PCARRD!


Wolfreda T. Alesna
Editor



Techno Gabay Program

takes on a new height:

EO 801 orders nationwide adoption of TGP

Farmers and entrepreneurs will now have easy access to Science and Technology (S&T) information that would help them improve their agricultural practices and increase their productivity. This could be made possible through the adoption of the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) which is a brainchild of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), one of the councils of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Executive Order 801 prescribes the implementation of the TGP in the local government units (LGUs) in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Commission on Higher Education – State Universities and Colleges, among other concerned agencies.

Executive Order 801 encourages all LGUs to adopt the Techno Gabay in their agricultural extension programs and the concerned government agencies to provide the required assistance for the purpose. The nationwide adoption of the TGP paves the way for easy and facilitative access of farmers/entrepreneurs to science and technology information.

The TGP has been a banner program of PCARRD that started in the late 90s. It is expected to be rolled out to DA-ATI within two years from the start of the EO 801 implementation. Convinced by the effective and efficient implementation of the program through the various R and D consortia, PCARRD has identified TGP as a strategy for accelerating knowledge creation and transfer under its 2004-2010 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

The success of the nationwide TGP implementation, gauged from the increasing number of TG Centers in all the regions of the country, has inspired PCARRD to work for the drafting of EO 801. Luckily the move got support from S&T champions from the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as from DOST Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro. This support facilitated the issuance of the Executive Order.

The TGP strengthens the “knowledge-networking framework” built by the collective expertise and resources from various institutions like state colleges and universities, research institutions, information and technology service providers (LGUs, agricultural technicians), and technology users such as farmers, entrepreneurs, and other clients.

TGP has four interrelated modalities: the Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) or Techno Pinoy Center; the Magsasaka Siyentista (MS); Information, Education and Communication (IEC); and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Combined together, these modules have been providing a powerful resource for the farmers in accessing technology.

PCARRD will coordinate the implementation of EO 801 at the national level within the first two years from its implementation, and then

coordination of the Techno Gabay will be transferred to the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI).

PCARRD shall also act as chair of the Steering Committee (SC) during the two-year period until its turnover to DA-ATI. After two years, the chairmanship of the SC shall be on a rotation basis, with DA-ATI acting as co-chair.

In the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP), the number of FITS, a one-stop service facility which provides farmers, entrepreneurs, and other clients' easy access to information and technologies, has increased from only three in 1997 to 62 in June 2010. Better participation from LGUs to adopt the TGP has been observed through the interest they have shown to support the program.

The LGUs participation in Techno Gabay is a major development since the devolution of extension to the LGUs in the early 90s. Farmers may now readily enjoy the benefits of modern technology that are made available in the Techno Pinoy Centers.

It is expected that this program could help bridge the gap between the yield in the farmers' field and those in the experiment stations manned by scientists from research institutions since getting access to technological information by farmers may now be easier.



Ribbon cutting during the Techno Gabay launching at OPA-Leyte with Acting Provincial Agriculturist Roger Portula, Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo (ViCARP-RRDCC Chairperson), Dr. Paulino Cabahit (ATI Region 8 Director) and Dr. Wilson Cerbito Regional Technical Director for Research.



Techno Gabay launching at Allen, N. Samar with Northern Samar's First District Representative, Honorable Paul Daza (center), and Dr. Othello B. Capuno, ViCARP Director (second from the right).



DOST Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro (center, in yellow shirt) talks to Ms. Tess Abella (PCARRD - TOPD) during her visit to TG Biliran. Looking on are DOST Asst. Sec. Carol Yorobe (second from left) and Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna (extreme right), ViCARP-RCTU Coordinator.

DOST Sec visits Biliran and Liloan FITS centers

“Strengthen the Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Center to promote the production technology to farmers,” Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro stressed when she visited two of the Techno Gabay (TG) centers of the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) on March 26-27.

Alabastro was in Eastern Visayas for a two-day visit to the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program projects. The Secretary included the visit to the TG or FITS centers of Biliran and Liloan in Leyte as part of her itinerary. She discussed with the different beneficiaries on the status of the centers and also got their feedbacks regarding the program.

While in Biliran, Alabastro interviewed Magsasaka Siyentista (MS) Cresensio Asombrado to know what assistance he and the other farmers are getting from the center and whether they really make money from their protected cultivation of high-valued vegetables.

MS Asombrado said that in addition to the support of the Office of the Provincial Agricultural Services (OPAS)-Biliran, they also got help from Harbest Corporation and East-West Seed Company. The two companies have assisted them by supplying materials for their vegetable structures and giving them free quality seeds.

At FITS-Liloan, ViCARP TG Coordinator Hazel Taganas explained to the Secretary that the center has two

MS: Romeo Salada for gabi production and Hermocilla Rosal for gabi processing.

Gabi is Liloan's One-Town-One-Product commodity. It is also the convergence crop in Liloan for institutions and agencies that have agreed to support the gabi farmers and processors. These agencies are DOST, Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Visayas State University, Southern Leyte State University, the provincial government of Southern Leyte, ViCARP, and the municipal government of Liloan, serving as host.

The Secretary pointed out to the group that farmer's access to technology should be backed up with more information, education, and communication materials.

Secretary Alabastro also asked MS Hermocilla Rosal about her production of gabi and the number of years she had been making gabi chips. Manang Celia said she started making gabi chips when banana was attacked by “bogtok”, hence, they have to experiment on other crops like gabi. She was also proud to tell the Secretary that she was able to send her children to college from her small gabi chips business.

The Secretary was accompanied by DOST Assistant Secretary Carol Yorobe, DOST-Region 8 Director Edgardo Esperancilla, Provincial S&T managers of Leyte and Southern Leyte, and some senior staff of DOST-Region 8.

ViCARP showcases “Pinoy Fries” at the 9th Philippine Food Expo 2010

The Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP), with the Visayas State University (VSU) as lead institution, showcased the Sweet Potato Fries popularly known as the “Pinoy Fries” at the 9th Philippine Food Expo from 25 to 28 February 2010 at the SM Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

With the theme: “Building a global market through quality Philippine Food Products,” the 9th PhilFoodExpo had featured Fresh and Processed Fruits, Fresh and Processed Seafood, Snack Food & Confectionery, Bakery Products, Sauces and Condiments, Herbal Organic Food, Food Equipment & Packaging, Food Service, Native Delicacies and Provincial Cuisine.

Food processors were given the opportunity to conduct cooking demonstrations from February 25, the opening day, until the last day, February 28.

ViCARP got the opportunity to join the PhilFoodExpo 2010 through the TECHNOMART Program of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). The PCARRD Applied Communication Division (ACD) had registered as official participant of the PhilFoodExpo as part of its program of promoting and commercializing S & T products.

The PCARRD Executive Director wrote the ViCARP RRDC Chairperson, VSU President Jose L. Bacusmo, that when the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center (PhilRootcrops) showcased the “Pinoy Fries” during the PCARRD Anniversary in November 2009, it got the nod from the Philippine Food Exporters Group and the Market Encounter Goes to Manila (MEGMA) group, hence the invitation for the “Pinoy Fries” to be showcased again at the 9th PhilFoodExpo 2010.

Heading the ViCARP group during the Opening Program on February 25 was ViCARP-RCTU Coordinator, Dr. Wolfreda T. Alesna. With her were VSU Manila Office Head, Ms. Delia L. Silao, the ViCARP Unit Coordinators, Ms. Hazel Taganas of TechnoGabay, Engr. Sean O. Villagonzalo of the Regional Management Information Services, Dr. Anilfa L. Abenoja of the Regional Program Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the ViCARP Secretariat staff, and Zearix Itable of the PhilRootcrops who demonstrated the cooking of the “Pinoy Fries” or SP Fries.

Photo: Zearix Itable of PhilRootcrops proudly promotes the Pinoy Fries and Protos at the SM Megatrade in Mandaluyong City.





EO 893 orders government offices to migrate to IPv6

Her excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued on June 28, 2010 Executive Order 893, ordering all government offices with online services to comply with internationally accepted IPv6 guidelines and have interoperable IPv4 systems within two years.

Executive Order 893, stressed that government offices must add IPv6 compliant equipment when purchasing upgrades or replacements of their information technology infrastructure. These purchases must be stipulated in the agencies' Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP).

Migration to the new version of Internet Protocol is now the government's priority when it comes to information technology-related projects. While Japan and China have been way ahead of us, government offices using the IPv4 must add IPv6 compliant equipment when purchasing upgrades or replacements of their information technology infrastructure.

The urgency and need to comply with the migration is now becoming an issue since in about a year and a half there will be no more IPv4 addresses left. According to the Number Resource Organization (NRO), less than 10 percent of available IPv4 addresses remain unallocated, meaning that IPv4 exhaust is becoming more of an imminent problem.

However, it also discourages government agencies to conduct their own uncontrolled migration to IPv6. Migration would require that all IT equipment will be inventoried for future planning.

In addition, an interagency task force will be formed, serving as the head overseer of all IPv6 implementation. This task force shall be composed of executives from the CICT, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

It should be recalled that under EO 269 series of 2004, the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT) is mandated to ensure the provision of strategic, reliable and cost-efficient information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, systems and resources as instruments for nation-building and global competitiveness. Many government agencies have complied with this order.

EO 893 is only directed at government offices, which have been tailing behind in adopting new technologies. 🇵🇭

Source:
Executive Order No. 893, Series of 2010
IPv6 migration: Are we there yet? - FierceTelecom
<http://www.fiercetelecom.com/story/ipv6-migration-are-we-there-yet/2010-04-09#ixzz0yuneEbf9>



TG Bato holds farmers' field day on corn-cassava inter-cropping

The Science and Technology Based Farm (STBF) farmers field day on corn-cassava inter-cropping was held on June 2, 2010 at Sitio Cambanog, Brgy. Bago, Bato, Leyte. It was the third cropping cycle of the corn-cassava experiment.

Ms. Renilda T. Kuizon, the Magsasakang Siyentista (MS), shared her insights and experiences with other thirty farmers during the field day. Ms. Kuizon admitted that there was a significant increase in yield and income during the third cycle. She said, her second cycle on corn-cassava inter-crop had just barely broke-even with her expenses because of El Niño, choice of seed and the soil on her land affected her yield from the cropping last season.

Ms. Kuizon also shared that inter-cropping is the best way to prevent soil acidity. She also discovered through her experiences that right timing of planting, good seed variety and kind of soil would really affect the yield of the crops. She encouraged the other farmers to

venture into corn-cassava inter-crop as there is already a sure market of cassava with the involvement of the Early Seven Marketing Incorporated, an assembler based in Ormoc City that has direct link with Ginebra San Miguel. Ms. Kuizon is also an assembler of cassava chips.

On the other hand, Dr. Othello B. Capuno, ViCARP Director shared to the farmers that there is money in corn and cassava. He said that the potential of corn is very high with at least 10 tons per hectare while cassava's potential yield is 30-40 tons per hectare.

Mr. Reynaldo Bergantin, an expert from PhilRootcrops, also stressed that with corn-cassava inter-crop, cassava is an added income to corn since cassava is used as chips and other industrial purposes.

ViCARP launches six more TG Centers from January to June 2010

For ViCARP, another Techno Gabay (TG) Center launched means an accomplishment of the consortium," Dr. Othello B. Capuno, Director of ViCARP pointed out. The Director revealed that five more TG Centers have been launched since the opening of year 2010. Three of these were launched on the last month of the first quarter. TG Hindang, Leyte was launched on March 5, 2010. It was followed by TG Matag-ob, Leyte which was launched on March 22. TG Tomas Opus, Southern Leyte was launched on March 30, 2010.

During the second quarter, TG Merida, Leyte was launched on May 27, 2010. TG Mayorga, Leyte was launched on May 31, 2010. TG Leyte- Leyte

was launched on June 24, 2010. A total of 62 TG Centers have been launched by ViCARP as of June 30, 2010.

Acting Leyte Provincial Agriculturist, Mr. Rogelio Portula revealed that OPA-Leyte, as ViCARP's Partner Member Agency has taken a more active role in ensuring that TG Program is widely spread in Leyte.

Ms. Hazel Taganas, Regional Techno Gabay Coordinator, admitted that she had hope that these TG Centers would still be included in the list of the TG Centers to be awarded with ICT equipment for the year 2010. She also hoped that more TG Centers will be launched this year in other parts of the region.



Ribbon cutting marks the opening of the Techno Gabay in Mayorga, Leyte.



Mrs. Nenita Sultan, PMA focal person, explains to farmers and women the functionality of Techno Gabay during the launching of the TG center in Hindang, Leyte



Farmers view the display of IEC materials at the newly launched TG Center in Merida, Leyte.



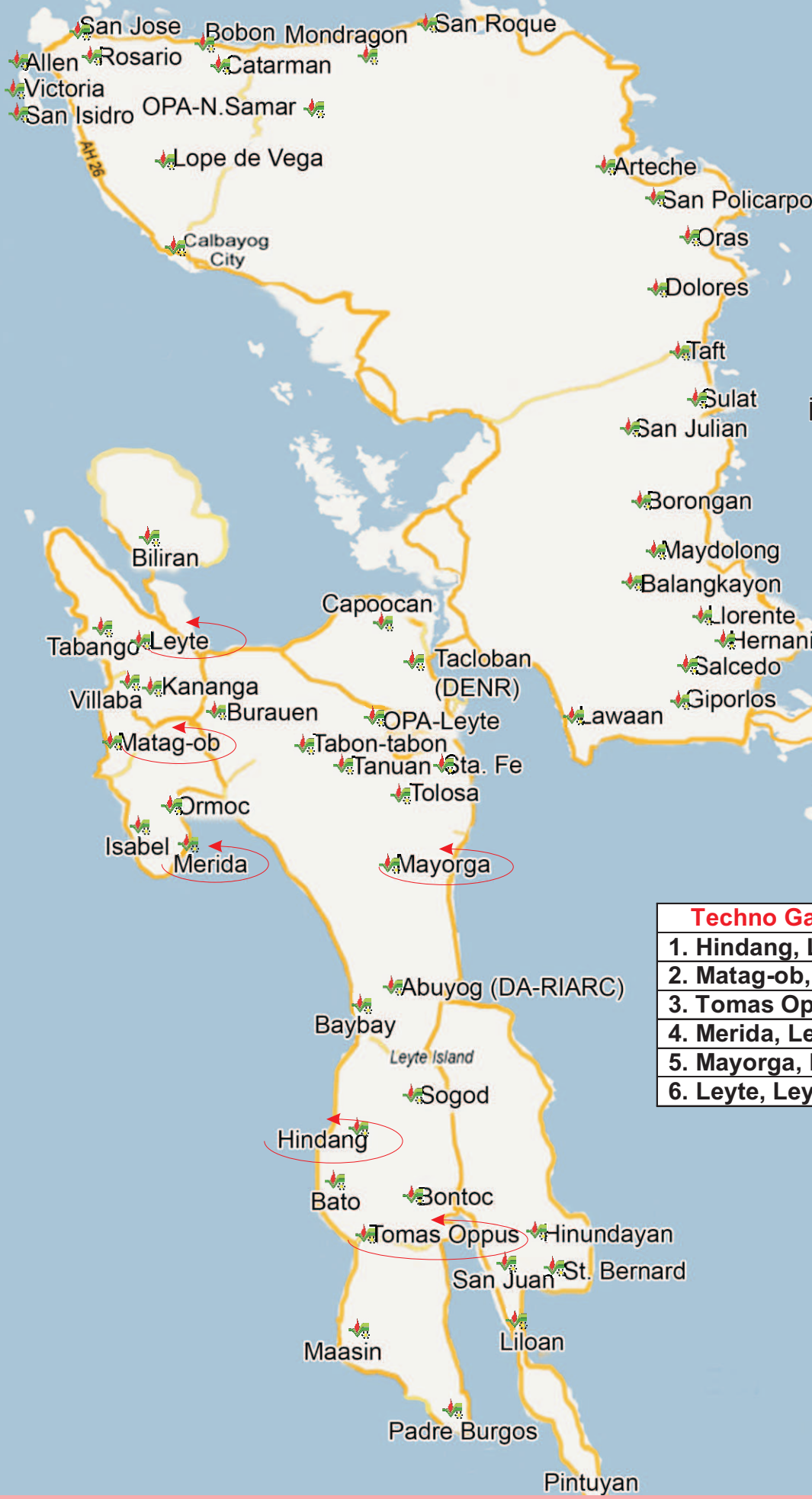
Mr. Tamar Mejia, Jr., TGP Focal Person of Southern Leyte State University, discusses the Techno Gabay Program with the farmers of Tomas Opus, So. Leyte.



Dr. Capuno explains the Techno Gabay Program and ViCARP's mandate during the launching of the Leyte-Leyte TG Center.



Launching of TG Matag-ob, Leyte is attended by a number of municipal employees and farmers.



A spot map of TG Centers in Region 8 as of June 2010

Techno Gabay Center	Date Launched
1. Hindang, Leyte	March 5, 2010
2. Matag-ob, Leyte	March 22, 2010
3. Tomas Opus, So. Leyte	March 30, 2010
4. Merida, Leyte	May 27, 2010
5. Mayorga, Leyte	May 31, 2010
6. Leyte, Leyte	June 24, 2010





Up-scaling the Goat S&T Program through the goat festival

For the 2nd time, the Goat Festival which is fast becoming a popular event in the town of Villaba, Leyte was held on June 10, 2010. The main theme for this year's festival is *Rural Enterprise Development (RED): Up-scaling the enterprise development through innovative goat production*. The event highlighted different goat production activities for the rural folks of Villaba, Leyte.

In his keynote message, PCARRD Deputy Director for Research and Development, Dr. Danilo Cardenas, congratulated DA-RFU 8 for organizing the Goat Festival. He underscored three conditions that the organizers need to take to ensure the benefits of this program. First is for them to continue whatever they have started to maintain sustainability; second is for them to expand further linkages especially to farmer cooperators and stakeholder; and third is for them to build an enterprise out of the RED program.

On the other hand, the DA-RFU Regional Executive Director, Leo P. Cañeda, described the celebration of the Goat Festival as the Day of Epiphany because Villaba also celebrated its 100th year anniversary as a municipality. He

said that both events are worthy accomplishments as it can show to other municipalities in the country that Villaba has the potential to lead a RED Project.

Another highlight of the event was the launching of the Science and Technology- Based Farm on Goat. This was spearheaded by the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture and Resources Program (ViCARP) through the local government of Villaba. Mr. Wilson Arnado has been appointed as the Magsasakang Siyentista of Villaba.

Some activities also included the Farmer's Technology Forum on Goat Industry. Participants of the forum listened to a lecture on "Moving Beyond Calderetta and Paklay" by Dr. Edwin C. Villar, Director of the Livestock Division of PCARRD, and other relevant topics by guests from Region 2 and Region 3.

Contests of the Best Buck, Best Doe, Best Kid, Best Booth and Goat Quiz Bee were also part of the Goat Festival.

Thank you,
sir Wilson,
pinasikat mo kami!



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