A training on Accredited Safety Dispenser of Fertilizer and Pesticide (ASD) was conducted at Mrs. Letecia Bunagan’s residence in Atayan, Balili, Mankayan, Benguet. The activity was co-sponsored by the Sinochem Phils. Inc. represented by Mr. Benjamin Atonen who also served as the resource speaker in the said activity that was participated by 14 individuals.

As an outcome of the training, Mrs. Jefriel Bunagan expressed her plan to establish her agricultural supply in Balili, Mankayan. The LTO application will be submitted by the second semester of this year.

FPA Provincial Officer Noel Negre Virtual attended the meeting with Cebu Agro Technician Association (CATA) Executives led by Mr. Eugenio Tabas, CATA President from Leads Agri, with him the Vice President Mr. Albert Ramos from Ramgo International Corp. The Secretary Ms. Richelle Mae Gula of FMC Agro Phil., Treasurer Mr. Jerwin D. Paz of Mambucal Agro Trade, Auditor represented by Mr. Roselito Dabalos on behalf of Mr. Garlie A. Garcia of Bayer Cropscience and PIO Officers Mr. Temmy Condera of BASF and Mr. Ronald Bulfa of Allied Botanicals Corp.

The activity was conducted in preparation for the upcoming courtesy meeting with the LGU executives of the Municipality of Dalaguete. CATA Officers are planning to conduct different activities in support to FPA Memo Cir. no. 11 series of 2017.

FPA commends the active participation of all private sector as they work together with FPA to educate local farmers on safe and judicious use of FP products.
As a response to the public advisory of Hon. Elizabeth D. Balasya last May 19, 2021, to use pesticides judiciously to avoid having high pesticide residues on harvested vegetables, the FPA Cagayan Valley conducted series of Training on the Safe and Judicious Use of Agricultural Pesticides (TRUAP). The trainings were conducted on the far-flung barangays of Banao and Cabayo of Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya last June 1-3.

Kayapa is known to be one of the major vegetable producing municipalities of the region and the possibility of using pesticides by farmers cannot be avoided.

The endeavor which is being jointly implemented by FPA Region 2 and LGU Kayapa will continue until most of the farmers are informed and educated on the safe and judicious use of agricultural pesticides to protect human health and the environment.

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**RETIREMENT OF PROVINCIAL OFFICER REYNALDO MOZUELA**

**JUNE 1**

The FPA Cagayan Valley team celebrated the retirement of Provincial Officer Reynaldo Mozuela during the Monthly Regional Meeting of the RFU. Mr. Mozuela expressed his gratitude to FPA RFU2 for the time and memories shared in public service.
FPA Region 7 showed support during the visit of the Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar and ASec. Noel Reyes in the Province of Cebu for the “SUGBU sog” Urban Gardening Program last June 03. The two went to the Province of Bohol the next day for the turning over of Agri Fishery Projects.

SUGBU sog means “Sugbuanon Busog, Luwas og Himsog,” a counter initiative launched by the Office of the Provincial Government of Cebu led by Gov. Gwen Garcia that aligned to DA’s plant, plant program with the support of DARFO 7.

The event was attended by LGU Executives, Congressmen and SUGBU sog Program Awardees.

Mankingao Agricultural Supply, a newly licensed fertilizer and pesticide dealer, was organized by the farmer-participants of the Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD) training at Mankingao Agricultural Supply, Cada, Balili, Mankayan, Benguet. The training was co-sponsored by Sinochem Phil., Inc. represented by Mr. Benjamin Atonen who also served as one of the resource speakers of the said activity. 48 individuals served as participants.
To promote the One-DA Approach, Dep. Eric Divinagracia discussed with RED Abel James Monteagudo and RTD Nicandro Navia of DA-RFO 13 regarding the regulatory requirements for the Issuance of Certificate for FPA Laboratory Recognition Program.

ENFORCING FPA’S MANDATE IN THE FIELD
JUNE 8-9

The FPA CARAGA conducted a plantation visit and inspection at banana plantations of MAI-Del Monte, Lapanday, and Los Ijos in Cabadbaran City, ADN & Trento, ADS.
FPA CAGAYAN VALLEY CONDUCTED 
CLEAN-UP-DRIVE OPERATIONS 
JUNE 8-9

FPA Region 2 personnel conducted clean-up drive operations in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela. The activity aims to check and monitor in compliance with PD 1144 among fertilizer and pesticide handlers. The team also collected fertilizer samples, and conducted an information drive campaign on the safe and judicious use of fertilizers and pesticides.

PUBLIC INFORMATION
JUNE 9

FPA was mandated by law to protect the public from the risks inherent in the use of pesticides and educating the agricultural sector in the use of these inputs.

As such, the FPA Cagayan Valley in partnership with LGU - Kayapa and DA RFU 2 conducted a series of trainings on Good Agricultural Practices for Highland Vegetable Farmers in Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya. The team also served as resource speakers on the Safe and Judicious Use of Pesticides in Barangay Acacia.
JUNE 10

FPA 12 headed by Regional Officer Alita C. Bornea and Provincial Officers Joey B. Pascua and Jennie M. Basilio received 100 pieces of IEC materials (posters) on Proper Triple Rinsing for Agricultural Pesticide Containers. The IEC materials were handed over to the FPA team by Croplife Regional Action Network (CRAN) SOCCSKSARGEN represented by Mr. Ariel A. Comission from Bayer Crop Science, Mr. Edgar Sustiguer from ALDIZ Inc., and representatives from Sinochem Crop Protection Philippines, BASF Phil. Inc., Corteva Agri Sciences, Sygenta Philippines Inc., and C.B. Andrew Asia Inc. The IEC materials will be distributed to FPA licensed handlers and local government units in the region.

JUNE 11

FPA Provincial Officers Gary dela Cruz and John Mar Nosura conducted a clean-up drive operation to prevent the proliferation of fake fertilizer and pesticide products being sold by either licensed or unlicensed dealers.
CropLife Philippines represented by Mr. Wagner Annogue spearheaded the posting of campaign posters on triple rinsing of empty pesticide containers last June 16, 2021. This is to ensure the compliance of agrochemical companies on hazardous waste management. About 300 pieces of IEC materials were posted in different establishments.

FPA 12 PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL EXTENSION AGENDA AND PROGRAM

FPA 12 headed by Regional Officer Alita Bornea participated in the Consultation Workshop on the Development of National Extension Agenda and Program (NEAP) for FY 2022-2028. The activity aims to conduct relevant information that will be used in the development of the NEAP FY 2022-2028. The NEAP serves as the guiding platform for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) of the new administration by FY 2022. Moreover, it aids in the AFE strategic planning process as it takes off from the AFE agenda and programs articulated in the NEAP. The workshop was led by Agricultural Training Institute-RTC 12 via virtual platform.
The Municipal Local Government Unit of La Trinidad, Benguet through its Municipal Cooperative Development Office, organized and sponsored an activity for the Guitley Lubas Pipingew (GULPI) Cooperative. The cooperative intends to become a licensed dealer of fertilizer and pesticide since the MLGU La Trinidad had approved the latter’s request for a livelihood assistance fund. Mr. Orlando Pacya, Municipal Cooperative Development Officer of the locality served as the resource speaker, Ms. Anielyn Tiongan, Barangay Agriculture Extension Worker of Lubas, La Trinidad provided updates on agricultural programs and FPA CAR provided training of Accredited Safety Dispenser. The activity was participated by 20 individuals.

GULPI is expected to submit the application by the second semester of 2021.

DA-CAR, HVCDP together with the PLGU Benguet – Office of the Provincial Agriculture funded and organized the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training for the coffee farmers in Benguet. The activity was held at Brentwood Apartelle, M. Roxas, Baguio City last June 18, 2021.
STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING THE ONE DA APPROACH

JUNE 21

FPA Region 1 Regional Officer Joseph Andre John Martinez attended the 2nd Quarter Regular Meeting of the Regional Management Council (RMC) of DA Regional Field Office 1 held at the 5f RFO Conference Room.

ACCREDITATION OF FP RESEARCHERS

JUNE 22

Regional Officer Mr. Armulfo L. Arausa, Jr. facilitated the hand-over of the Certificate of Accreditation and Identification Card to Ms. Daisy Cartagenas – Center Chief of Soil, Water Research, and Development Center (SWRDC) as FPA Accredited Researcher in Region 7.
In view of FPA’s commitment to continually improve the technical capacity of its employees, specifically the Regional Field Units (RFUs), the agency conducted a seminar entitled “Orientation/Re-orientation on Food Safety Act of 2013 and Regulatory Policies on Agricultural Inputs” last June 22 via Zoom and which was participated by 110 FPA employees.

One of the key objectives was to continually improve the Quality Management System (QMS) by enhancing the capabilities of FPA employees, specifically the Regional Field Units (RFUs). Further, it also aimed to enhance the knowledge of participants on the existing policies and guidelines on pesticide residue monitoring and familiarize the policies and guidelines on the registration of organic agricultural inputs and the licensing procedures for handlers of these inputs.

The lecturers were: 1) Dr. Pedro S. Dumaraos, Jr. for the Food Safety Act of 2013 and the current initiatives of the Department of Agriculture as one of the lead implementers of food safety in the Philippines; 2) Ms. Maria Esperanze DG. Uy - role of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) as one of the FSRAs under the Department of Agriculture and the existing policies and guidelines being implemented by their bureau for pesticide residue monitoring. Mr. Charlie T. Palilio shared the policies and guidelines on the registration of organic agricultural inputs and the licensing procedures for handlers of these inputs. Ms. Julieta Lansangan provided a refresher module regarding the safe reuse of wastewater for purposes of irrigation and other agricultural uses and shared the updated regulatory guidelines and policies pertinent to fertilizer. Lastly, Ms. Bella Fe D. Carmona gave updates on regulatory guidelines and policies pertinent to pesticides.
JUNE 24

FPA Provincial Officer Rowena Bilig served as resource person during the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on Vegetables training spearheaded by MLGU – Tuba through the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist at Pula, Sto. Tomas, Poblacion, Tuba, Benguet which was attended by 12 individuals.

JUNE 25

FPA Provincial Officer Rowena Bilig served as resource person during the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training for the cacao growers funded and organized by DA-CAR, HVCD together with PLGU Benguet – Office of the Provincial Agriculture. The training was held at Brentwood Apartelle, M. Roxas, Baguio City.
FPTAC MEETING
JUNE 28

To continuously give excellent services to clients, the Fertilizer Policy and Technical Advisory Committee (FPTAC) conducted their meeting via Zoom last June 28 which was attended by 12 members of the committee. Some of the agenda include the discussion concerning the shelf life of fertilizers, the minimum standard for NPK and humic acid, and updates regarding the drone application. The attendees actively participated in exchanging their ideas and opinions to ensure that concerns were properly addressed.

After the extensive discussion, the attendees agreed on some of the following agenda:

- the creation of a small group composed of Dr. Paterno, Dr. Pannga, and Dr. Migo in coming up with the standards for the exemption of the humic acid and those with fulvic acid regarding the bioefficacy data exemption;
- additional information to be included in the bluebook concerning the exemption of humic acid and other products with humin, fulvic acid, among others once the data are finalized; and
- formulating mechanics for crop nutrition and crop protection in one field trial.
ENFORCING FPA’S MANDATE IN THE FIELD

JUNE 29

FPA Provincial Officer Noel Negre conducted fertilizer random sampling and weighing at area distributor's warehouses with the presence of warehouse managers.

JUNE 29

In order to check the veracity of reports and to address some issues and concerns on transshipment and disposal of alleged fertilizer in Carascal, Surigao del Sur, the FPA Caraga team, DA-LGU & MENRO, conducted an onsite inspection and sampling for laboratory analysis last June 29, 2021.
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