**AGRINEWS (JUNE)**

**Dalipe Cares: Amor Y Servicio Para Con Maga Nana**

The City Government of Zamboanga held the "Dalipe Cares: Amor Y Servicio Para Con Maga Nana" event at City Mall, Tetuan, Zamboanga City on June 01, 2024. The activity was led by City Mayor John M. Dalipe, together with the House Majority Leader and Congressman Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe, and Committee Chairman on Agriculture/City Councilor Al-Jihan Edding. The initiative was coordinated by City Agriculturist Arben E. Magdugo and his staff.

A total of 185 participants from the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) availed themselves of a range of free services, including eye check-ups with free reading glasses, pedicures, manicures, massages, and haircuts. In addition, the Office of the City Agriculturist (OCA) and the Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Zamboanga team distributed assorted Agri-fishery IEC materials and vegetable seeds, and facilitated the distribution of 5 kilos of rice to each participant.

This event underscores the city's commitment to serving and supporting the local community, especially women and youth, enhancing community welfare and promoting agricultural knowledge.

**RSBSA Mass Registration and Crop Insurance Application**

A mass registration for the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and crop insurance application was held at the Barangay Lubigan covered court on June 05, 2024. The activity was spearheaded by Curuan Field Officer Mr. Abelardo Carpio III and his staff, along with PCIC Underwriter Mr. Napoleon Barad. Coordination for the event was provided by Lubigan, Cansilayan, Panubigan Association (LUCAPA) President Mr. Hakim Jala, with active participation from LUCAPA members and the Lubigan Barangay Council.

The event successfully served 140 farmers, providing them with essential support and insurance to bolster their agricultural activities.

**Swine Dispersal and Monitoring Program in Zamboanga City**

The Institutional Development Building Division, led by Division Head Ms. Glenda Dela Rosa and Vitali District FHRM Coordinator Ms. Giselle Francisco, conducted the fourth cycle of the Swine Dispersal Program in Barangay Inner Mangusu, Zamboanga City on June 07, 2024. During this activity, Ms. Ma. Arline Perez, a member of the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) in Mangusu, was selected to receive one female swine.

This program, funded by the National Rural Improvement Club, aims to provide members with opportunities to engage in swine production, promoting sustainable livelihoods. The primary goal is to distribute swine to qualified members, with plans to continue dispersing piglets to other RIC members in future cycles.

In addition, the team visited Barangay Lapakan to monitor a previous swine recipient, Ms. Cindy Casas, who is preparing to commence swine breeding in the coming months. Both Ms. Arline Perez and Ms. Cindy Casas signed a Memorandum of Agreement related to the Swine Dispersal Program, indicating their commitment to the initiative.

This program supports individuals in swine production and aims to create a pathway towards a more prosperous livelihood for the participants involved.

**Send-Off of Filipino Young Farmers for Internship Program in Taiwan**

The Office of the City Agriculturist, through the Institutional Development Building Division and 4-H Coordinators from Tumaga, Ayala District, together with the Zamboanga City 4-H Club Federation President, organized the send-off for Batch 4 of the Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT). The activity took place at Zamboanga International Airport on June 9, 2024.

The seven interns—Mr. Jerwin Barlaan, Mr. Arzel Dela Cruz, Mr. Gerald Carl Enriquez, Mr. Noriel Española, Mr. Jhonyboy Labonita, Mr. Abeth Macrohon, and Ms. Charlene Yalon—will first undergo a one-month farm exposure in Manila, facilitated by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Central Office. They will be assigned to different ATI Learning Sites before their final departure for Taiwan.

During the send-off activity, the interns' parents were present to show support and bid farewell to their children. This program aims to provide young farmers with advanced agricultural training and experience, equipping them with skills and knowledge to enhance agricultural practices upon their return.

**Turnover Ceremony of Livelihood Assistance to Labuan Fisherfolk**

On June 11, 2024, A turnover ceremony was held at the Labuan Covered Court to provide livelihood interventions to fisherfolk affected by the fire incident that occurred on March 31, 2024. The activity was attended by City Mayor John M. Dalipe, Vice Mayor Pinpin Pareja, Committee Chairman on Agriculture/City Councilor Al Jihan Edding and Councilor Jerome Santos, National SK President CJ Dalipe, and City Agriculturist Mr. Arben E. Magdugo. Also present were Ms. Erlinda Puy, Chief of FMRED BFAR 9, Ayala AFO Merida Garcia and staff, and the Barangay Council of Labuan led by Chairperson Kap. Ron Carlo Maravilla.

During the ceremony, 20 fisherfolk received substantial livelihood assistance from BFAR IX The support included 20 units of FRP boats, 1 unit of a 5.5 marine engine, 80 sets of fishing nets, 100 sets of squid jiggers, 40 sets of hook and line, and 20 insulated fish containers, with the total of 1.5 million pesos.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for the interventions, which offered hope for recovery and sustainability following the devastating fire. This support is vital in ensuring the continuity of the fisherfolk's livelihoods, highlighting the government's commitment to aiding a valuable sector of the economy.

**Training on Entrepreneurship and Bookkeeping Held at OCA Conference Room**

A training session on entrepreneurship and bookkeeping took place at the OCA Conference Room on June 14, 2024. The training aimed to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among participants, equipping them with the skills to approach business effectively. In addition, it provided essential bookkeeping knowledge for proper record keeping, cash flow management, and budgeting.

The session was attended by 25 entrepreneurs from the Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs) across (6) six Agricultural Field Offices. The activity was coordinated by DTI-9, ensuring comprehensive coverage of both entrepreneurship and bookkeeping essentials.

This training session is part of ongoing efforts to support and enhance the capabilities of local entrepreneurs, contributing to the growth and sustainability of their businesses.

**Seaweed Seedling Distribution Benefits Fisherfolk in Manicahan District**

A seaweed seedling distribution activity took place on June 13, 2024, benefiting seaweed farmers in Barangay Manicahan, Sangali, and Bolong. The initiative was spearheaded by City Fishery Officer Dr. Bonifacio M. Duterte Jr., with support from his staff, Mrs. Lani Biring Soling, and Commission on Audit representatives Mr. Moadz Janjawi and Mr. Lhen Jude E. Fabian from BFAR-IX. District Fisheries Coordinator Mr. Daryl Miko R. Chiong also played a key role in the activity.

The distribution supported five seaweed and fisherfolk associations within the Manicahan District: The Manicahan Seaside Seaweeds Farmers Association led by Mrs. Sheba S. Ajahad, the Manicahan Aplaya Seaweeds Farmers Association led by Mr. Ibnusuhud P. Taala Jr., the Manicahan Bacolod Seaweed Association led by Mr. Adsmar A. Fernandez, the Sangali Malasugat Association led by Mr. Haser H. Rahim, and the Hugpong Multi-Sectoral Association led by Mr. Abhar H. Daud.

A total of 1,000 kilos of seaweed seedlings were distributed among these associations, aiming to bolster the local seaweed farming industry and support the livelihoods of the fisherfolk in the region.

**Leadership Development and Organizational Strengthening Training**

A training session focused on Leadership Development and Organizational Strengthening took place at the Terracota Hotel in Tumaga, Zamboanga City on June 19, 2024. The activity, graced by Regional Executive Division Engr. Aves Marcos Sr., brought together cluster leaders and other key participants from the Ayala district.

Notable attendees included Mr. Roman B. Abilay, President of the Vegetable Cluster; Mr. Wene Tamaño, President of the Corn Cluster; and Mr. Allen Muriedas, President of the Rice Cluster. The session aimed to equip these leaders with the necessary skills to effectively manage and strengthen their respective clusters, aligning with the goals of the Commodity Development Plan.

The training underscored the importance of strong leadership and organizational capacity in fostering sustainable agricultural development and preparing for future advancements in their respective sectors.

**Dalipe Cares: The Barangay Servicio Caravan Brings Aid to Pasonanca**

Zamboanga City’s Pasonanca Covered Court was the site of the "Dalipe Cares: The Barangay Servicio Caravan" activity, held on June 21, 2024. Spearheaded by City Mayor John M. Dalipe, the activity was participated from the Office of the City Agriculturist, led by City Agriculturist Arben E. Magdugo and his staff.

The caravan focused on distributing vegetable seeds and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to the local community. This initiative was designed to support local agriculture and provide residents with valuable resources, reinforcing the city’s commitment to enhancing the well-being of its citizens through accessible services and support.

**3rd 4H Club Youth Camp 2024 Kicks Off**

The 3rd 4H Club Summer Youth Camp commenced at Pamucutan Elementary School with great enthusiasm. The opening day featured the highly anticipated "Search for Mr. and Ms. 4H 2024" competition, along with various other 4H activities.

The camp brought together 4H Club members, who participated in a range of activities aimed at promoting leadership, camaraderie, and personal development. The "Search for Mr. and Ms. 4H 2024" showcased the talents and poise of the youth, setting an exciting tone for the rest of the camp.

**Pamilyang Pulis PNP Family Day Launched with Agricultural Support**

The Agricultural Field Office III, under the leadership of Mr. Kennedy B. Pusalan, participated in the Launching of the Pamilyang Pulis PNP Family Day at PRO 9, Camp Col Romeo A Abendon, Mercedes, Zamboanga City on June 27, 2024.

Led by Mr. Pusalan and accompanied by his staff including Ms. Lizza Mae Calado, Mr. Lloyd Senon, and Ms. Ellen Mapili from the Information Section, the AFO III actively engaged in the event. They distributed assorted vegetable seeds and fruit tree seedlings to PNP personnel and their families, emphasizing support for sustainable agriculture within the community.

The Info Section/FITS Center also played a crucial role by providing Agri-Fishery Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials to attendees. These materials aimed to enhance agricultural knowledge and promote best practices among participants, aligning with the event's focus on family and community welfare.

The presence of AFO III underscored their commitment to collaborating with the PNP and supporting initiatives that contribute to both agricultural development and community well-being.

**District Field Office V Supports Local Fishermen with Fish Pot Distribution**

The District Field Office V, Curuan District, led by Assistant Field Officer Mr. Aison Dalinsog and Fishery Technician Ms. Analiza Salili, undertook a significant initiative on June 28, 2024. They facilitated the distribution of fish pots to the Km 57 Fishermen Association, benefiting a total of 25 fishermen with 250 fish pots.

Fish pots, locally known as "bubo," are essential fishing gears utilized in coastal communities, particularly around coral reefs. These devices are designed to capture demersal fishes and crustaceans, traditionally crafted from woven bamboo splits, although modern versions now use synthetic materials for durability and efficiency.

The distribution aims to bolster the local fishermen's capacity and support their livelihoods by providing essential tools for sustainable fishing practices. This initiative underscores the District Field Office V's commitment to enhancing the welfare and capabilities of coastal communities through strategic interventions in the fisheries sector.

**City Agriculturist Leads Participation in 50th Nutrition Month Launching**

The Office of the City Agriculturist, under the leadership of City Agriculturist Mr. Arben Magdugo, actively joined the Regional and City launching of the 50th Nutrition Month Celebration at Zambowood Elementary School on July 01, 2024.

Theme "Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyon Sapat Para sa Lahat," this year's celebration began with a spirited motorcade originating from the Integrated Bus Terminal (IBT) Divisoria and culminating at Zambowood Elementary School. The activity kicked off with a ceremonial ribbon cutting followed by an engaging opening program.

During the festivities, the Culianan Field Office Farmers' Association showcased and offered for sale a diverse array of locally grown fruits, fresh vegetables, and processed products. Mr. Magdugo was present together with Mr. Kennedy Pusalan, Culianan Field Officer, and their respective staff members. Also in attendance were the FHRM and FYDP Coordinators, as well as IDB Chief Ms. Glenda dela Rosa and her team.

The activity not only highlighted the importance of nutrition but also underscored the city's commitment to promoting healthy eating habits and supporting local agricultural initiatives. It served as a platform for community engagement and collaboration towards ensuring sufficient nutrition for all residents.

**Corn Derby Ceremonial Planting Promotes Agricultural Innovation in Zamboanga City**

On July 02, 2024, Zamboanga City witnessed the vibrant spectacle of a Corn Derby Ceremonial Planting activity held at Ayala. Spearheaded by the Office of the City Agriculturist under the leadership of Mr. Arben E. Magdugo, this initiative aimed to highlight agricultural innovation and promote corn production suitable for the local environment.

The activity drew significant participation from various stakeholders including City Mayor John M. Dalipe, who graced the occasion together with the Committee Chairman on Agriculture/City Councilor Al-Jihan Edding. Also present were Agricultural Program Coordinator Officer Mr. Arnulfo "Nonong" Estrada, Ayala District Barangay Kagawad Mr. Ruiz Delos Santos, Corn Banner Coordinator Mr. Rolando Peralta, and Farmer Cooperator Mr. Michael Magallano. The active involvement of (6) six Agricultural Field Offices and OCA main staff further underscored the collaborative effort behind the initiative.

Highlighting diversity in corn varieties, the activity featured (7) seven different Seeds Company representatives: Mr. Jun Lucero (Vigour Seed Dev. Inc.), Mr. Iric Kindom and Mr. Samilo Ocino (Asian Hybrid), Mr. Joefrey Pardilla, Mr. Julius Cesar Baltazar, Mr. Pacheco Freddie Clark, and Mr. Richard Peniton (Bayer Crop Science Inc.), Mr. Ivan Ray Montimor from Syngenta, Mr. Eleozor Soronio Jr. and Mr. Adonis Pepito (Bioseed), Mr. Richard Golis (Amtract), and representatives from Advanta. In addition, (2) two Chemical Company representatives, Mr. Archie Cristobal (FMC) and Mr. Patricio Mejia (C.B. Andrew Asia Inc.) contributed to the comprehensive display of agricultural technologies.

The ceremonial planting not only showcased the latest in hybrid corn varieties but also aimed to foster agricultural development and innovation in Zamboanga City. This endeavor reflects the city's commitment to advancing local farming practices and promoting sustainable agricultural growth for the benefit of its residents and economy.

**Inspection and Assessment of Seaweed Damages in Mulu-Muluan Mercedes**

An inspection and assessment of the reported seaweed damages took place in Mulu-Muluan, Mercedes, Zamboanga City on July 03, 2024. The damages were attributed to heavy flooding caused by severe rainfall linked to the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). Fishery Coordinator of Culianan district, Mr. Teodorico P. Mella, together with DFAFI Chairman of Culianan district, Mr. Kaiser H. Hussin, conducted an ocular inspection to evaluate the extent of the damage.

The assessment aimed to understand the impact of the flooding on seaweed farms and to plan for necessary interventions and support for affected seaweed farmers