

PRESS RELEASE

DOST I trains food guardians in upholding gender sensitivity

A Gender Sensitivity Training for the staff of National Food Authority - Ilocos Norte was conducted recently in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

"We are about to learn the importance and difference of men and women, and hoping that what we will learn today will be applied in our lives from our own home to work place down to our community," NFA-ILN Provincial Manager Engr. Eleonor A. Andres remarked during the opening of the activity.

Gender sensitivity is getting rid of wrong notions and perceptions of the opposite sex. Both men and women play a vital role in the society thus, Gender Sensitivity training is a way of sharing and appreciating the concept of Gender and Development.

Ms. Maureen Heidi L. Perez, GAD staff and member of the GAD Focal Point System of DOST I, discussed that sex is the physical identity of the person while gender is a socially learned behavior. Also, she reiterated the idea that "sex is what you are born with, gender is what happens afterwards."

An award-winning animated video entitled "The Impossible Dream", with a timeless message, was shown. The video takes a wry humorous look at a problem faced by women everywhere where it features an average family with a baby and two school-age children. It reenacts the role of men and women within the family and tackles about the workloads of men and women, and how inequality between the gender is made worse in some ways by the fact that women can work outside the home now.

In addition, the participants were taught that gender roles, expectations and perceptions box women and men into situations that constrain their capacity to do and capacity to be, hindering, in turn, their potentials to attain a full and satisfying life.

They also learned that being gender sensitive means being able to appreciate the differences between men and women; understand how gender shapes their roles in the society, and how it affects relationship between them. It means becoming aware of gender concerns in order to respond to gender issues.

A total of 49 participants composed of 38 NFA - ILN staff and 11 stakeholders (farmers, rice millers and retailers) are now gender sensitive.

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Participants of the GST proudly shows their certificates after the training.

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