

CONCEPCION VOCATIONAL SCHOOL CELEBRATES TEACHER'S DAY



 **Laurence Andrew Lugtu | October 03, 2024**

Concepcion Vocational School (CVS) celebrated Teacher's Day on October 3, 2024, with trainees from Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT) classes 22-A, 23-B, and C, joining together to honor their trainers and show appreciation for their dedication. Held at the CVS grounds, the event featured performances, awards, and games in recognition of the vital role teachers play in shaping the future.

Honoring Educators for Their Dedication and Impact at Concepcion Vocational School

The Teacher's Day celebration was a special occasion for both students and trainers. Faculty and staff came together to celebrate the school's commitment to providing quality education and building the foundation for students' careers. The event aimed to express gratitude to the trainers, whose work is essential to the success of CVS and its students.

The Event in Full Swing

The day's festivities were packed with activities and performances, each highlighting the relationship between trainers and trainees. Below is a breakdown of how the celebration presented:

Opening Prayer and National Anthem

The event started with a solemn prayer led by SCO President Ken Batiller, followed by the singing of the national anthem. This set a respectful tone for the day.

Body and Mind Booster (BAMB)

To kickstart the program with energy, six representatives from the Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT) program performed the Body and Mind Booster (BAMB), which got the crowd moving and excited for the rest of the celebration.

Inspirational Messages

A highlight of the day was the inspirational messages from Sir Rico D. Briones, Vocational Instruction Supervisor and Ma'am Consolacion A. Talisik, Vocational School Administrator. They both emphasized the value of teaching not just as a profession but as a calling, reminding everyone that education plays a crucial role in shaping lives. Ma'am Talisik spoke passionately about teaching as a lifelong vocation, while Sir Briones encouraged everyone to continue striving for excellence.

Awards for Best Trainers

The most anticipated part of the program was the awarding of the Best Trainers of 2023. Honored for their hard work, dedication, and impact on the lives of their trainees, the awardees included Doc Lerma P. Lorente, Sir Rico D. Briones, Sir Carlos D. Mola, and Sir Abraham G. Gania. Other trainers, such as Ma'am Amapola Malonzo, Ma'am Ann Josell H. Yumul, Egr. Bryan Jake Castro, Sir Steven Balingit, and more, were also recognized for their contributions.

Special Performances by Trainees

The trainees showcased their talents through special performances. DAT A performed a dance number in creative costumes, while DAT B led by Danniela Santos and Kenneth David, performed "Salamat" by Yeng Constantino. DAT C also presented an energetic remix dance that got the crowd cheering.



Poem by Jomel V. Soliman

One of the day's touching moments was a poem presented by Jomel Soliman, an SCO officer. His words reflected the deep appreciation the students have for their trainers, bringing smiles and even tears to some members of the audience.

Games for Trainers

The celebration also included a lighthearted yet competitive activity. Trainers participated in the popular game "Pinoy Henyo," adding laughter and fun to the event. Various teams of trainers, including Sir Carlos D. Mola, Ma'am Riza Talavera, and others, gave their best effort, but only a few managed to guess the correct words. The audience enjoyed watching their trainers loosen up and engage in the fun.

Closing Remarks

The event concluded with heartfelt closing remarks by Sir Bryan Jake Castro, who commended both students and teachers for their hard work and contributions to the school community. He also encouraged the trainees to continue valuing their education and to always show respect and gratitude toward their trainers.

CONCLUSION

Teacher's Day at CVS was more than just a celebration—it was a reminder of the invaluable role that educators play in the lives of their students. By recognizing the efforts of the trainers and fostering an environment of respect and appreciation, CVS continues its mission of providing high-quality, upright technical-vocational education. As the event came to a close, the bond between trainers and students was stronger than ever, reflecting the essence of what Teacher's Day is truly about: honoring those who guide the next generation toward success.

Bringing Baking Skills to Special Needs Education Students

 Laurence Lugtu | October 31, 2024

Community-Based Training Provides Practical Skills for Students and Parents

Special needs education students, parents, and teachers gathered for a two-day Community-Based Training (CBT) on pandesal, Spanish bread, and soft roll making last October 29-30 at Jose V. Yap National High School (JVYNHS) in San Miguel, Tarlac. The training, requested by teachers and parents, aimed to equip participants with practical baking skills to foster independence and livelihood opportunities.



Training Initiative Led by CVS Trainers and Volunteers

The training was organized through the initiative of Teacher John Arnel S. Palma and JVYNHS SPED teachers. In response, TESDA-Concepcion Vocational School (CVS), headed by Dr. Consolacion A. Talisik (Vocational School Administrator), answered the call, with Dr. Lerma P. Llorente serving as lead coordinator and trainer. Dr. Llorente conducted an ocular inspection two weeks prior to ensure the readiness of the venue.

On the first day, Dr. Llorente, along with CVS trainers Ma'am Ann Josell Yumul and Sir Steven Balingit, and volunteer Ms. Cherry Estabillo, introduced themselves to participants. Ms. Estabillo, a TESDA Bread and Pastry NC II holder, volunteered her expertise to the program. Dr. Llorente gave an overview of baking, focusing on food safety, hygiene, and sanitation, as well as the functions of tools, equipment, materials, and ingredients.

Hands-On Training for Students and Parents

Participants, including parents and students, were divided into three groups. Each trainer guided a group, ensuring personalized instruction and close supervision. Demonstrations were conducted, allowing participants to practice baking skills hands-on.

Over the course of two days, the trainees learned to bake pandesal, Spanish bread, and soft rolls, focusing on techniques and attention to detail. The session fostered collaboration, as parents assisted their children in tasks, creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

Recognition and Gratitude

The training concluded on the afternoon of October 30. JVYNHS representatives, including Mr. Rommel S. Carreon (OIC School Head), Ms. Aline C. Mallari (Assistant Principal for Junior High School), Ms. Maribel Cabusao, and Mr. Dionisio Diego Jr., expressed their heartfelt gratitude to CVS, Dr. Llorente, and the trainers for their invaluable contribution.



Building Inclusive Opportunities Through Skills Training

The success of the training emphasized the importance of partnerships between educational institutions in addressing the needs of special education students. By providing practical and livelihood-oriented training, TESDA-CVS demonstrated its commitment to inclusivity and skill development for all.

The event concluded with a shared sense of achievement, with hopes for future collaborations to empower the special needs community.

CVS Empowers Reformists Through Community-Based Training By CVS ORACLE



Balay Silangan, San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

Reformists Engage in Tocino Processing and Fertilizer Application Training at Balay Silangan

November 15 and 22, 2024 – A community-based training (CBT) organized by the Concepcion Vocational School (CVS) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Concepcion, Tarlac brought new skills to reformists at Balay Silangan, San Nicolas. Facilitated through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the two-part program focused on tocino and longganisa processing on November 15 and synthetic fertilizer application on November 22.

Tocino Processing: A Lesson in Food Preparation and Safety

The first session of the CBT was held on November 15, 2024, with Ma'am Lerma P. Llorente, CVS lead coordinator and trainer, leading the event. She was assisted by CVS trainers Ma'am Ann Josell Yumul and Sir Steven Balingit, along with Ms. Jessa Mae S. Centeno, Balay Silangan Training Manager, representing the LGU of Concepcion. Security and support were provided by the Philippine National Police-Concepcion.

Ma'am Lerma guided participants through the steps of tocino and longganisa production, starting with a discussion of the ingredients, uses, tools, and equipment needed. Demonstrations emphasized the importance of hygiene, sanitation, food safety, and the characteristics of quality meat. Reformists actively participated in the hands-on training, gaining practical knowledge they could use for livelihood opportunities.

Fertilizer Application: Sustainable Practices for Local Crops

The second session on November 22, 2024, was facilitated by Sir Fely Mark A. Fabia, L.Agr, another skilled CVS trainer. The focus shifted to the application of synthetic fertilizers, specifically band placement application using urea. Participants learned techniques relevant to eggplant during its vegetative stage, highlighting methods to improve crop yield and soil fertility.

The training underscored sustainable practices and their importance for agriculture-based livelihoods. Reformists actively engaged in discussions and field applications, showcasing enthusiasm for implementing these methods in future farming endeavors.

Empowering Reformists for a Better Future

This initiative is part of the collaborative effort between CVS and LGU Concepcion to provide reformists with skills that align with TESDA's mission of promoting community empowerment through education and vocational training.



Conclusion

Through the collective efforts of CVS, LGU Concepcion, and other stakeholders, the reformists at Balay Silangan gained valuable skills that will aid them in securing sustainable livelihoods. These initiatives reinforce the importance of education, community collaboration, and vocational training in creating meaningful change.

CVS continues to uphold its commitment to empowering communities through training and development, paving the way for brighter futures for individuals striving to rebuild their lives.

Program Highlights:

Opening Segment:

A prayer to end violence against women and the singing of the National Anthem by an all-women's cast set a respectful and powerful tone.

Sir Baltazar D. Caculitan, Animal Science instructor, led an engaging Body and Mind Booster Exercise to energize attendees.

Welcome Remarks:

Vocational School Administrator Dr. Consolacion A. Talisik thanked all participants and emphasized the importance of ending violence against women.

Keynote Speech:

Sir Carlos D. Mola explained CVS's participation in the campaign and the critical role of education in advocating for a VAW-free society.

Performances and Competitions:

Students from various batches showcased artistic presentations related to VAW advocacy.

The SCO facilitated slogan-making, poster-making, and essay-writing contests judged by faculty and administrative staff.



Recognizing Excellence in Advocacy (1st, 2nd and 3rd)

Poster Making Contest

1. Jerome Baluyut – Animal Production Poultry Chicken NCII
2. Ansherina Yvonne Tuazon – Immersion, Holy Cross Colleges
3. John Berg G. Tiglao – Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT) Batch B [next pesges...]



CVS UNiTEs for a VAW-Free Philippines

 Ronalin P. Magcalas | Thursday, December 12, 2024

CVS supports the nationwide call to end violence against women through active participation in the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW. This initiative, led by CVS Gender and Development (GAD) focal person Sir Carlos D. Mola, included students, faculty, administrative staff, and immersion trainees from Holy Cross Colleges Inc. The campaign ran from November 25 to December 12, culminating in a vibrant program on December 12 at 9:00 AM.

Highlighting the Cause: "VAW Bigyang Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!"

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) spearheaded this year's 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, emphasizing the urgency of the advocacy under its recurring theme, "UNiTEd for a VAW-free Philippines." Marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 (RA 9262), the campaign urged solidarity across genders and sectors to eliminate violence in all forms.

Throughout the campaign, CVS demonstrated unity and commitment by incorporating activities that promoted awareness and education. The event highlighted the importance of standing up for women's rights, showing that collective action within the community can create meaningful change.

Cultivating Awareness at CVS

The 18-day observance at CVS featured various activities organized by the GAD Office, Student Council Organization (SCO), and CVS Oracle editorial staff. Key moments included:

1. Weekly Wear Orange Campaign – Every Monday, participants wore orange shirts to symbolize a stand against violence.
2. Culmination Program – On December 12, the final event gathered faculty, staff, and students at CVS grounds.



Slogan-Making Contest

1. Laurence Andrew B. Lugtu – DAT B
2. Althon Jhay C. Lapuz – DAT B
3. Arjay Santos – DAT C

A Call to Action

The campaign's success at CVS exemplifies the institution's dedication to fostering awareness and action against violence. By creating platforms for education and creative expression, CVS empowered its community to advocate for women's rights and uphold the values of equality and respect.

As the event concluded, participants reflected on the message of the campaign: "VAW Bigyang Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!" It is not just a theme—it is a call to act, inspire, and unite for a violence-free society.

The 18-Day Campaign may have ended, but the fight for a VAW-free Philippines continues, with CVS leading the charge in cultivating a culture of respect, empathy, and solidarity.



Essay Writing Contest

1. Ryza May R. Noble – Immersion
2. Julie Ann S. Abogado – Animal Production Poultry Chicken NCII
3. Lean Vence Maravillas – Animal Production Poultry Chicken NCII

Winners were honored during an awarding ceremony at 4:30 PM, followed by closing remarks from Engr. Bryan Jake B. Castro, SCO Adviser, who expressed gratitude to participants and encouraged continued involvement in future CVS initiatives.



2024 Year-End Party Unites Cvsians in Celebration of Accomplishments and Fellowship

By Jennilyn C. Torres | Friday, Dec. 20, 2024

Cvsians, including Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT) students from batches 22-A, 23-B, 24-C, Work Immersion students of Holy Cross Colleges Inc., faculty, and administrative staff, gathered on the CVS grounds on Dec. 20, 2024, at 7:30 AM for the much-anticipated Year-End Party, fostering fellowship and celebrating another successful year.

A Day to Remember: Events Unfold

The program began on a solemn note with a prayer led by the CVS Student Council Organization (SCO) President, Ken Philip S. Batiller, setting a reflective and thankful tone. The singing of the Philippine National Anthem followed, conducted by Ma'am Mae Anne S. Yalung-Mangiral. Dr. Lerma P. Llorente delivered the opening remarks, acknowledging the hard work and teamwork of the Cvsians.

A moment of gratitude highlighted the event as Ma'am Amapola Jana P. Malonzo, SCO Co-Adviser and CVS Oracle Publication Adviser, presented tokens of appreciation to the SCO officers 2024 and the CVS Oracle Editorial Staff for their dedicated service throughout the year.

Adding energy to the gathering, students from DAT-24-C led a "Body and Mind Booster Exercise" (BAMB), engaging participants in a light yet invigorating activity. Laurence Lugtu and Kenneth David of 23-B captivated the audience with a singing performance, followed by a dynamic dance number from Holy Cross Colleges students.



Fun, Games, and Creativity

SCO officers organized games and icebreakers, including "Bring Me," "Longest Line," "Pinoy Henyo," "Eh Ikaw," and a raffle draw that kept spirits high throughout the day.

This year's celebration also encouraged creativity and teamwork through a "Parol-Making" contest. Each batch, including the Work Immersion students, crafted Christmas lanterns using indigenous materials, showcasing their artistry and innovation. The finished parols were displayed on the stage. Winners of the parol-making contest will be announced when classes resume in January.

The students came dressed in their designated colors: white for DAT-22-A, black for DAT-23-B, red for DAT-24-C, and green for Work Immersion students, adding vibrancy to the celebration.



Conclusion: Closing the Year with Gratitude

The program concluded with closing remarks from Sir Jake B. Castro, SCO Adviser, who expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. Following the official program, students returned to their respective classrooms for their class parties and gift exchanges.

The emcee, Joseph Mark "Cheska" De Guzman, skillfully guided the event, while the CVS Oracle documented the memorable moments, ensuring they will be remembered by future generations of Cvsians.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: KIM JUSTINE MANGUERA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF--

Rotations, Responsibilities, and Realizations

A New Chapter Begins at Brookside

Every student dreams of stepping out of the classroom and into the real world. For us, the Diploma in Agricultural Technology Batch 22-A students of Concepcion Vocational School (CVS), that dream became a reality during our Supervised Industry Learning (SIL) at Brookside Group of Companies.

SIL is more than just a requirement—it's our bridge between theory and practice. With ten eager minds, including myself, we embarked on this journey to complete 300 training hours. Little did we know, the lessons would extend far beyond animal production.

Preparing for the Big Leap

Before setting foot at Brookside, we underwent a detailed orientation at the CVS conference room. Parents joined us as Sir Rico D. Briones, our Vocational Instruction Supervisor, and Sir Carlos D. Mola, the Assistant VIS, thoroughly explained the SIL program. They answered questions, clarified concerns, and ensured everyone was ready.

When October 14 came, we arrived at Brookside Farm Corporation in Bamban, Tarlac. The day began with an orientation about Brookside's history and a briefing on Basic Occupational Safety Hazards. By 3:00 PM, we were sent to Brookside Breeding and Genetics Farm and RH Farms in Sto. Rosario, Capas, where we immediately felt the gravity of biosecurity protocols.

The next 36 hours were dedicated to quarantine—a preventive measure to keep external viruses from affecting the animals. Under the guidance of Brookside's Processing Marshal, we cleaned dormitories, bathrooms, and other facilities as part of their 5S Policy. These practices, thankfully, weren't foreign to us, as CVS also instilled discipline and order through the same principles.

After quarantine, we were divided into four departments under the swine division: Breeding, Farrowing, Nursery, and Grow-Finish. Each day was a new learning experience. From assisting in farrowing to monitoring the growth stages of swine, we gained practical skills that complemented the theories we learned in school.

However, the lessons didn't stop at technical knowledge. Being on time, respecting deadlines, and practicing professionalism were all part of the training. Workplace communication became second nature as we worked alongside Brookside herdspersons, apprentices, and supervisors.

Spiritual growth was also an unexpected yet fulfilling aspect of our SIL. Every second Sunday night, we participated in Bible studies and worship sessions—a reminder that growth isn't just about skills but also about values and faith.

A Bittersweet Farewell

As December 6 approached, we said our goodbyes to the people who made our SIL journey unforgettable. From the herdsmen to the supervisors, each person contributed to our learning and growth. Receiving our certificates at Brookside's Bamban headquarters felt like a culmination of hard work and a promise to apply what we've learned in our future endeavors.

The Takeaway

Our SIL experience at Brookside wasn't just about fulfilling a requirement—it was about transformation. We returned to CVS not just as students but as individuals equipped with practical skills, discipline, and a deeper appreciation for agriculture and the people behind it.

To future CVSIANS who will embark on their SIL journey, know that it's more than training hours. It's a chance to learn, grow, and build a foundation for the dreams you've always envisioned.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: LAURENCE ANDREW B. LUGTU
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

--- Cultivating Knowledge and Growth

For every Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT) student at Concepcion Vocational School (CVS), practical experience is as vital as classroom learning. Our journey unfolded at M&M Lettuce Farm in Barangay Talimundoc, Concepcion, Tarlac, as part of TESDA's Supervised Industry Learning (SIL) program. Over 300 hours, spanning from July 12 to August 28, 2024, we immersed ourselves in the realities of hydroponic farming, gaining both technical expertise and invaluable life lessons.

--- The Groundwork: Orientation and Preparation

Preparation began long before stepping onto the farm. A pre-deployment orientation at the CVS conference room involved not just students but also our parents. Led by Sir Rico D. Briones, Vocational Instruction Supervisor, and Sir Carlos D. Mola, Assistant VIS, the session provided a comprehensive understanding of SIL objectives, expectations, and guidelines.

Upon arriving at M&M Lettuce Farm, Sir Martin, the farm manager, welcomed us with a tour and a detailed briefing. Safety protocols, including discussions on basic occupational hazards, were emphasized to ensure our readiness for the tasks ahead.

--- Life at M&M: A Structured Routine

Our daily schedule was both rigorous and fulfilling. From Monday to Friday, we worked eight-hour shifts, focusing on the hydroponic lettuce production cycle.

Mornings began with water drum refills, ensuring the hydroponic system's consistent operation. As the day progressed, we monitored greenhouse conditions, adjusted netting for optimal shade, and maintained cleanliness to minimize pest risks.

Core tasks included:

Sowing Seeds: Preparing seed trays with precision.
Transplanting: Carefully moving seedlings to their hydroponic systems every ten days.
Weeding: Keeping the area free from invasive plants.
Harvesting: Selecting mature lettuce heads, trimming damaged leaves, and packaging for market readiness.
These hands-on experiences emphasized accuracy, consistency, and adaptability—key traits for any agricultural professional.

--- Lessons Beyond the Greenhouse

Beyond farming techniques, our SIL journey fostered personal and professional growth.

Discipline and Teamwork: Punctuality and collaboration were non-negotiable.

Communication: Open dialogue with supervisors and co-trainees improved problem-solving and efficiency.

Pakikisama (Camaraderie): Building harmonious relationships with our peers and mentors was essential for maintaining a positive work environment.

We also deepened our respect for agriculture as both a science and an art, requiring meticulous planning and care for natural processes.

--- Parting Ways, Carrying Lessons

On August 28, as we completed our SIL journey, we expressed heartfelt gratitude to the M&M Lettuce Farm team. The skills, discipline, and values we gained were more than academic—they were life-changing.

This experience reinforced our commitment to pursuing excellence in agriculture. For us, SIL was more than a requirement; it was a chapter of growth, resilience, and preparation for a meaningful career in the agricultural industry.

To future DAT students, embrace SIL as an opportunity to learn, connect, and grow beyond expectations.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: WILLMARK B. MADAYAG
HEAD WRITER

On October 14, 2024, I, Willmark Madayag, together with my fellow students from TESDA-Concepcion Vocational School (CVS), embarked on an unforgettable journey as part of our Supervised Industry Learning (SIL) at the renowned Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU). Over the course of 300 hours, we immersed ourselves in hands-on agricultural training that would help us bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Our team included Anna May Baluyut, Virginia Bayawoc, Cesar Santos, and Aljon Mataga. The objective of SIL was clear: to showcase and refine the knowledge and skills we acquired at CVS in real-world agricultural operations. At TAU, our primary focus was on Animal Production Swine (APS) and Animal Production Poultry-Chicken (APPC), but the lessons went far beyond these areas.

Daily Work and Responsibilities

Each day began at 8:00 AM and ended at 5:00 PM. Our tasks were varied and rigorous:

Cleaning animal enclosures to ensure a healthy environment.

Feeding and maintaining swine, poultry, and aquatic fowl.

Operating a grass cutter and performing weeding.

We also collaborated with the university's farmworkers and students, which provided opportunities to build teamwork and communication skills.

Practical Learning Experiences

Under the guidance of Sir Nestor Padilla and Sir Aris Bajas, we were introduced to advanced agricultural practices. Some of the highlights included:

Handling native pigs and learning proper care techniques.

Performing artificial insemination (AI) for swine.

Administering antibiotics to piglets, goats, and sheep.

Managing free-range chickens effectively.

These hands-on activities allowed us to apply what we learned at CVS while gaining new insights from TAU's experts.

Challenges and Achievements

Throughout the 30 days, we encountered challenges that tested our patience, resilience, and adaptability. However, with determination and teamwork, we overcame every obstacle. Each task taught us the value of discipline and hard work, preparing us for future endeavors in agriculture.

By the end of the program, all five of us proudly completed the required hours and received certificates of completion. These certificates were more than just recognition—they symbolized the knowledge and experiences that we would carry into our professional lives.

Gratitude and Reflection

On behalf of my group, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Tarlac Agricultural University for welcoming us and guiding us throughout this journey. The knowledge imparted by Sir Nestor and Sir Aris, as well as the camaraderie we shared with the staff and students, made this experience truly memorable.

This SIL experience was not just a requirement—it was a transformative journey. It honed our skills, broadened our perspectives, and prepared us for the challenges of the agricultural industry.

This is my SIL story, and I am proud to say that I, along with my peers, am one step closer to achieving my dreams in agriculture.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: RONALIN P. MAGCALAS
REPORTER I

We began our Student Industry Learning (SIL) journey alongside my fellow students. There were five of us in our group, and our SIL in Mayantoc focused on the proper care and management of chickens (both broilers and layers). The farm owners, Mr. Frank Roland Geromo and his wife, Mrs. Hilda Geromo, welcomed us warmly.

Our first day at Geromo Farm was exhausting, as Sir Frank immediately assigned us tasks. We started by cleaning the surroundings and preparing for the arrival of chicks. On our second day, we were tasked with beautifying the farm, planting around the area, and building a free-range cage.

We were joined at Geromo Farm by two students from Tarlac Agricultural University. They became like older brothers to us, making the work more manageable as we helped each other complete the tasks assigned by Sir Frank.

Sir Frank taught us many things, including proper poultry management. We learned the correct timing for feeding the layers, adding supplements to their drinking water, and ensuring adequate lighting for them. When the chicks (broilers) arrived, Sir Frank guided us through vaccination, trimming, and the proper care and rearing of the chickens.

We also learned how to weigh eggs accurately and experienced selling them, giving each of us a taste of the marketing process.

There were challenges during our SIL, but we overcame them through teamwork and unity.

We gained valuable lessons and experiences, such as the spirit of bayanihan—a Filipino tradition of communal unity and cooperation—where people helped each other in drying palay (rice grains) without expecting anything in return. We learned how to harmonize with others, communicate despite differences in traditions, language, and culture, and most importantly, to stay humble and kind to everyone we encountered.

Our SIL experience was fulfilling because of the people who guided and supported us, those who welcomed us, and those who became our family during this time. We are deeply grateful to them, as they shaped us to face the challenges of the real world—challenges they themselves had once faced.

Success is what they asked of us when we meet again:

Success in facing life's challenges.

Success in achieving our dreams.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: JENNILYN TORRES
REPORTER II

"The only source of knowledge is experience," Albert Einstein once said. This quote became a living truth for us during our Supervised Industry Learning, a month-long immersion that start in July 12, 2024 but stretched from August 28th to September 2, 2024, thanks to some unexpected storms. Our group, assigned to the landscaping farm, embarked on a journey that taught us far more than just how to grow plants.

Our days at the farm were a hands-on crash course in agriculture. We learned the art of marcotting, a way of propagating plants like the yellow leaf variety. It involved carefully wrapping parts of the plant with moss, using cutters and staplers to secure it. We also spent a lot of time rebagging over 2,000 different kinds of ornamental plants into various sizes of plastic bags. This wasn't just about moving plants from one container to another; it was about understanding each plant's needs. We learned the proper way to plant and transplant cuttings, like the vibrant santan flower. Let me tell you, rebagging and planting that many plants required a lot of patience and a strong back!

We also learned how to mix loam soil, a special blend of coco peat, vermicast (worm castings), carbonized rice hull (CRH), and garden soil. It was like following a recipe, making sure we had the right amounts of each ingredient to create the perfect growing environment.

Working on the farm taught us more than just agricultural skills. It taught us about teamwork. We quickly realized that we couldn't do everything alone. We needed each other. I remember Danniela Santos and I working together on rebagging, our hands moving quickly as we filled bag after bag. Meanwhile, our male classmates, Althon Lapuz, Mark Allen, and Nikkie Reyes, were busy hauling the rice hull, a key ingredient for planting. We all had our roles to play, and we relied on each other to get the job done.

Our manager, Ma'am Amelia, who ran the farm, shared some valuable advice. She said, "Doing business with plants takes hard work and perseverance. It's tough at first, but as they grow, they become more valuable." Her words stuck with me. It made me realize that anything worthwhile takes effort and time.

This experience taught me the importance of hard work, dedication, perseverance, and action. I learned that just knowing something isn't enough; you have to put it into practice. Being on the farm brought this idea to life. The long hours and physical work weren't easy, but seeing the results of our efforts – the rows of neatly rebagged plants and the thriving cuttings – made it all worthwhile.

Our time at the landscaping farm was more than just a school requirement. It was a real-life lesson in hard work, teamwork, and the importance of putting knowledge into action. We learned that just like the plants we cared for, we also grew during this experience. We learned that success doesn't come without effort, and that even small sacrifices can lead to big rewards. We left the farm not just with dirt under our fingernails, but with a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us, a testament to Einstein's words: true knowledge comes from experience.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: JOHN BERG G. TIGLAO
PUBLICATION DESIGNER

On July 8, 2024, I began my 300-hour Supervised Industry Learning (SIL) program at **SMARRFYN Farm** as part of my Diploma in Agricultural Technology (DAT). This hands-on experience was more than a requirement—it became a journey that shaped my skills and perspective on agriculture.

First Steps: Laying the Groundwork

The program started with an orientation where we met our instructors and learned the farm rules. Our first tasks—clearing the farm, burning dry leaves, and harvesting rambutans—set the tone for the hard work ahead.

A Week of Growth

From July 9 to 15, I immersed myself in the daily life of a farmer. I planted rambutans, eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, and mustasa, gaining insight into crop management. Working in the vegetable nursery taught me about soil depth, water conservation, and farm sanitation.

July 11 stood out as a day of teamwork, as we installed fences and nets to protect crops. On July 12, I transplanted eggplants, peppers, and tomatoes, then applied complete fertilizer, learning how proper timing ensures healthy growth. By July 14, I was cultivating leafy greens and appreciating the beauty of nurturing life. Finally, on July 15, I cleaned animal enclosures—a challenging but essential task for livestock health.

A Journey Worth Taking

Each task at SMARRFYN Farm taught me valuable lessons, from technical skills to resilience and teamwork. Learning to tend crops, manage resources efficiently, and adapt to the unpredictable rhythms of weather taught me to be patient and solution-focused. Working alongside fellow volunteers and farmers, I discovered that every role matters: from planting seeds to harvesting produce, success depends on everyone doing their part with care and commitment.

More than just farming, I saw how agriculture connects sustainability, stewardship, and community well-being. We practiced organic methods that nurtured the land instead of depleting it, ensuring it would remain fertile for future generations. Excess harvests were shared with neighboring families, turning our work into a source of nourishment and support for those around us. This taught me that farming is not just about growing food—it is about growing stronger, more connected communities.

Looking back, SMARRFYN Farm became more than a requirement—it became a place of growth and purpose. What started as an obligation soon turned into a daily source of joy and fulfillment. I left each day with dirt on my hands but hope in my heart.



ANG AKING KWENTONG SIL

BY: LHAIZA TACUSALME
PHOTOGRAPHER I

We began our Student Industry Learning (SIL) journey alongside my fellow students. There were five of us in our group, and our SIL in Mayantoc focused on the proper care and management of chickens (both broilers and layers). The farm owners, Mr. Frank Roland Geromo and his wife, Mrs. Hilda Geromo, welcomed us warmly.

Our first day at Geromo Farm was exhausting, as Sir Frank immediately assigned us tasks. We started by cleaning the surroundings and preparing for the arrival of chicks. On our second day, we were tasked with beautifying the farm, planting around the area, and building a free-range cage.

We were joined at Geromo Farm by two students from Tarlac Agricultural University. They became like older brothers to us, making the work more manageable as we helped each other complete the tasks assigned by Sir Frank.

Sir Frank taught us many things, including proper poultry management. We learned the correct timing for feeding the layers, adding supplements to their drinking water, and ensuring adequate lighting for them. When the chicks (broilers) arrived, Sir Frank guided us through vaccination, trimming, and the proper care and rearing of the chickens.

We also learned how to weigh eggs accurately and experienced selling them, giving each of us a taste of the marketing process.

There were challenges during our SIL, but we overcame them through teamwork and unity.

We gained valuable lessons and experiences, such as the spirit of bayanihan—a Filipino tradition of communal unity and cooperation—where people helped each other in drying palay (rice grains) without expecting anything in return. We learned how to harmonize with others, communicate despite differences in traditions, language, and culture, and most importantly, to stay humble and kind to everyone we encountered.

Our SIL experience was fulfilling because of the people who guided and supported us, those who welcomed us, and those who became our family during this time. We are deeply grateful to them, as they shaped us to face the challenges of the real world—challenges they themselves had once faced.

Success is what they asked of us when we meet again:

Success in facing life's challenges.

Success in achieving our dreams.

TITLE OF PROJECT RESEARCH:

SEGREGATE TO REGENERATE: WASTE CHARACTERIZATION FOR ZERO WASTE GOALS OF CONCEPCION VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

ABSTRACT

Concepcion Vocational School (CVS) recognizes the pressing need to address improper waste disposal and its adverse effects on both the environment and the school community. This project, titled “Segregate to Regenerate,” was initiated to support the institution's commitment to sustainability by conducting a systematic waste characterization study. Through the identification and quantification of waste types generated across different areas of the school, the project aimed to generate baseline data for informed decision-making and to promote sustainable practices.

The study was conducted over five (5) consecutive school days and two (2) weekend days, encompassing classrooms, workshops, administrative offices, canteens, and outdoor spaces. Waste was categorized into four types: biodegradable, recyclable, residual, and hazardous, in accordance with RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), TESDA Memorandum No. 220, s. 2020, and applicable local government ordinances. The findings revealed that a significant portion of the school's waste was biodegradable, underscoring the potential for composting as a key strategy.

Integrated into the project were Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns, curriculum enhancements, and the active engagement of both students and staff. Additionally, the initiative identified key issues, including inconsistent segregation, the lack of standardized bins, and limited awareness regarding the proper handling of hazardous waste.

Based on the data, the project proposed actionable recommendations, including the enhancement of composting systems, strengthened IEC efforts, policy reinforcement, and the development of an eco-monitoring framework. Ultimately, this project not only supports CVS's environmental goals but also empowers the school community to become lifelong environmental stewards, contributing to the realization of a zero-waste campus.