

# FOOTPRINTS NEWSLETTER

January to March 2021

## IFSU hosts Israel's Ambassador to PH

FAITH B. NAPUDO



**CONNECTING BRIDGES OF DEVELOPMENT:** IFSU University President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon signs a Memorandum of Agreement with Israel's Ambassador to the Philippines Rafael Harpaz who is accompanied by his spouse Shulamit, during the Ambassador's visit to the University on March 12, 2021.

The Ifugao State University (IFSU) received His Excellency Rafael Harpaz, Israel's Ambassador to the Philippines on March 12, 2021 to strengthen partnership and collaboration between his country and the only higher educational institution in the province.

IFSU University President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon led the University in welcoming the high ranking official with his spouse Shulamit Harpaz and his entourage.

Ambassador Harpaz representing Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IFSU represented by Dr. Dugyon to further promote scholastic and educational exchange

Notably, IFSU particularly the College of Agriculture and Home Science (CAHS), is a recipient of AgroStudies On-the-Job Training Program in Israel. Qualified CAHS students continue their learning

with partner agricultural schools while working in Israeli farms for the duration of 10-11 months. Last October, 36 students returned home after completing their internship in said country amid pandemic.

Ambassador Harpaz and company also visited the IFSU Museum, and International Innovation Center for Indigenous Studies which are repositories of cultural materials and research products of the Ifugao people.

They witnessed an actual weaving, rice wine tasting, donning of Ifugao cultural  
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## IFSU-Hapao launches IKSP Learning Center

JUDE C. BAGGO

Recognizing the importance of Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and Practices (IKSP) in heritage conservation and living in harmony with nature, the Ifugao State University (IFSU)-Hapao Campus launched its Indigenous Peoples Resource Conservation and Community Learning Center on January 21, 2021.

Designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) and as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the municipality of Hungduan, Ifugao offers rich IKSP experiences and perspectives that can be learned, shared and integrated in the higher education curricula.

The launching of the Center is the first of its kind in Hungduan, Ifugao. The hub will host several programs and projects. As a Center, it has a museum, a training school on Indigenous Knowledge Skills courses, an ecotourism trail and a research center on culture.

The museum will be ethnographic in nature showcasing Ifugao culture. It will be a hub for local artists to display their works. It is also intended to cater to students, community members and tourists. It will display the municipality's rich tradition in wood carving, handicrafts, metal works, musical instruments, agricultural implements, rituals, photographs, textiles, oral literatures, researches and other publications.

Another component of the Center is the offering of indigenous skills on

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### Vision

A globally recognized University upholding excellence amidst rich cultural heritage

### Mission

Produce employable graduates who are morally upright, socially and culturally responsible professionals through quality, relevant, and innovative INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RESOURCE GENERATION

### Goals and Objectives

#### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

1. Assure quality of programs
2. Ensure effective student lifecycle management and career development
3. Provide unique and lifelong learning experience in the entire student lifecycle
4. Integrate internationalization perspective towards global connectedness
5. Strengthen student welfare services for a successful academic formation of students
6. Integrate indigenous knowledge, system and practices (IKSP) in the academic programs to intensify conservation of the rich cultural heritage

#### STRONG RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE

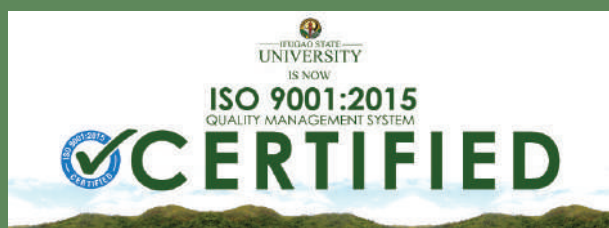
1. Establish a strong brand and strengthen image building of IFSU as a research leader
2. Intensify conduct of research and dissemination of RD outputs
3. Intensify conservation of the rich cultural heritage.

#### SUSTAINABLE EXTENSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Package and transfer knowledge and technologies relevant to the needs of the clientele
2. Create a widely shared organizational culture that encourages, promotes, and rewards extension and community engagements
3. Establish/Strengthen/Sustain linkages with LGUs, industries, and other organizations/stakeholders for resource sharing, extension program, and service complementation

#### EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

1. Ensure efficient, transparent and accountable delivery of administrative services
2. Forge strong network system and resource sharing through collaborative activities conducted regularly
3. Strengthen the university's local and international visibility
4. Enhance efficiency in resource generation and mobilization
5. Upgrade competencies of human resources
6. Technologize front line services and other services of the University
7. Ensure a clean, green, safe, and GAD-responsive University environment
8. Intensify conservation of the rich cultural heritage integrating culture in the administrative services



Footprints Newsletter is the official publication of the Ifugao State University (IFSU) Administration. It aims to disseminate fair and accurate reporting of issues and events in the six (6) campuses of the University along its core thrusts: Instruction, Research, Extension, and Resource Generation. It serves also as a platform for employees and students to promote their programs, research findings, and advocacies.

Contributions, complaints, suggestions, and Letters to the Editor may be submitted to the Editorial Board at the IFSU-Department of Communication, Public and International Affairs Office located at the 2nd Floor Administration Building, IFSU-Lamut Campus or through email at [dopia@ifsu.edu.ph](mailto:dopia@ifsu.edu.ph).

Submission does not guarantee publication. The editors reserve the right to determine whether articles submitted for publication may be printed based on the Philippine Journalists Code of Ethics. Write-ups submitted may be edited for mechanics. Writers are expected to input corrections and submit reviewed materials on the set deadline.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the collective sentiments of the editorial staff nor of the University.

# IFSU faculty, studes apprised on life-span development issues

JANINE ZOE M. DAWONG

The College of Open Distance Education and Transnational Education (CODETE) and Department of Psychology in partnership with the Department of Extension and Training of Ifugao State University, held its three-day virtual webinar series on the Contemporary Concerns in the Life-Span Development on January 27 to 29, 2021.

The webinar series aims to recognize mental health issues in the spectrum of development amid pandemic.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Nancy Ann P. Gonzales lauded all organizers, speakers, and participants who attended the webinar via Zoom and Facebook Livestream.

“The topics shown in the program illustrates that life is so beautiful indeed. All of the topics are timely, as we need more of these as we adjust and move forward from this pandemic,” remarked Dr. Gonzales.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jeng Jeng M. Bolintao, Dean of CODETE, assured that participants will surely benefit from all the lectures as these will give them a deeper understanding of the numerous pathways humans can take as they grow in the life-span.

Prof. Florence N. Bahni, Psychology Faculty at Saint Mary’s University tackled the first of the series entitled, “Am I just Sad or Depressed? Dealing with Postpartum Syndrome.” She particularly discussed Postpartum Depression among women.

Prof. Myra G. Gahid, Founder of “The 100% Attitude Project” in Baguio City, discussed another series titled “Who is Gen Z or I Gen?: A Deep Understanding of their Behaviors and Personalities.”

“Gen Z is known as the Online Generation. They are very sensitive to authentic content. The moment they were born, they were already exposed to which the internet was present. It is the baseline of their upbringing,” reiterated Prof. Gahid.

Prof. Juleva J. Saniel of Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School Technology (SPAMAST)

in Davao Occidental, discussed the third of the series titled, “Let’s Play: Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds.”

“Parent-Child Relationship is one that nurtures the physical, emotional, and social development of the child,” said Saniel.

The fourth of the series is titled, “Gerontology: Successful Aging and Caring for Elderly Parents,” was expounded by Prof. Ma.Teresa B. Tayaban, Psychology Faculty at Saint Mary’s University. Prof. Tayaban shared components that are important in successful aging; statistical, social, and mental activities; and tips in taking care of the elderly.

Prof. Ma. Isabel S. Lemen of Ateneo De Davao University addressed the 5th of the series titled, “I Spent Half My Life: Experiencing Midlife Crisis.”

“Life is not perfect. Instead of looking at those setbacks as some things that would bring us down, think of these as lessons,” Prof. Lemen concluded.//

## RDET capacitates faculty researchers on proposal packaging

FAITH B. NAPUDO

The Department of Research and Development (DRD) conducted a workshop on proposal packaging to faculty members of the College of Agriculture and Home Science (CAHS), College of Computing Sciences (CCS) and College of Engineering and Technology on separate occasions in March 2021.

Said workshop aims to provide an avenue for researchers to finalize their research concepts into full-blown proposals ready for submission to the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST - PCIEERD) and other funding agencies.

Dr. Dinah Corazon M. Licyayo, Vice

President for Research and Development, Extension and Training (RDET) and Dr.

Elpidio B. Basilio Jr., Director of DRD facilitated said workshop.



# IFSU hosts 1st Metals and Engineering Innovation Center in CAR

RONALINE C. CANUTE



Ifugao State University (IFSU) is privileged as the first University in the region to be among the recipients of the Metals Industry Research and Development Center-Department of Science and Technology (MIRDC-DOST) where Metals and Engineering Innovation Center (MEIC) will be established.

This project was initiated by MIRDC titled, “Establishment of Metals and Engineering Innovation Centers in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Regions I, II, III and X,” with the aim of developing strong partnership with regional academic institutions to promote innovation, culture, and to strengthen their capacity in the field of metalworking and enhance the competitive advantage of the metals and engineering (M&E) industries.

According to Osric Primo Bern A. Quibot, Senior Science Research Specialist, the MEIC focuses on strengthening and developing academic activities, conduct of

researches, and training center for faculties and students to learn about metals and engineering innovations.

During the call for nomination, the DOST-CAR Regional Director Nancy A. Bantog nominated IFSU. After passing the criteria, the university was chosen to be among the beneficiaries of the project making it the first University in CAR to be the center for MEIC.

The MIRDC led the initial delivery and turn-over of the 7 million worth of fabrication equipment and auto machines at IFSU Lagawe Campus in February and

March, this year. These included Hydraulic Press Brake, Hydraulic Sheering Machine, Tig Welding Machine, Electric Hoist (2T), Plasma Cutter, and Sheet Metal Roller.

IFSU President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon allotted additional 1.5 million pesos from the University fund for the improvement of the machine shop.

Dr. Dugyon extended her gratitude to the the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and DOST-CAR for pushing the project. She added that the initiative is a big help in generating and disseminating appropriate knowledge and technologies that promote sustainable resource development as well as promote Science and Technology in the region.

Lagawe Campus Chief Executive Director (CED) Vicky K. Cadalig also extended her thanks to the proponents.

“The project contributes in fulfilling the goal of the university - to be a campus of choice for Engineering, Technology as well as Education and Business and Management,” said Cadalig.

Aside from IFSU, other State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) such as the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMSU), Cagayan State University (CSU), and Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST) were also granted with similar project.//



# Faculty and staff equipped on fire prevention tips

JANINE ZOE M. DAWONG



The Ifugao State University (IFSU) Lamut, Lagawe, and Potia campuses simultaneously participated in the fire drill activity conducted by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) on March 15, 2021.

The drill aims to increase fire safety and electrical awareness in line with the national celebration of Fire Prevention Month with the theme “Sa Pag-iwas sa

Sunog, Hindi ka Nag-iisa.”

BFP personnel lectured on proper evacuation procedures, shared safety

precautions needed during a fire emergency and demonstrated the proper usage of fire extinguishers.

IFSU employees showed what they have learned through the return demonstration.//

# Church women capacitated on record keeping and management

FROYLYN M. FACULLO

The Ifugao State University (IFSU) conducted training on record keeping and management under the project titled, “Product and Market Enhancement of Galyang (Cyrtospera chamissonis) Taro Chips” at St. John in the Wilderness Church, Halog, Lamut, Ifugao on February 23-24, 2021.

The training was spearheaded by project proponents: Dr. Dinah Corazon M. Licayao, Project Leader and Vice President for Research Development, Extension and Training; Maritess K. Alberto, Co-Project Leader; Froylyn M. Facullo, Staff Member of the Department of Extension and Training; and Gina Bay-an, Project Staff Member.

Dr. Catherine V. Buenaventura, an entrepreneur, and staff of the Provincial Agriculture Office served as resource speaker during the said activity. She discussed the importance and basic steps

of record keeping to manage a business and/or finance.

“It is important to keep records of everything you do in the business and not to record only your sales. Your records will be your guide to see if your business is gaining or losing, it will show you where you spend more so you can adjust in your expenditure,” she stressed.

During the workshop, she guided the participants in filling out the forms from production sales to cash outflow. According to her, the forms are the basic

information needed in a business.

“Whatever activity or expenditure, may it be a grant from a partner agency, you should give value as you record them,” added Dr. Buenaventura.

The two-day training was attended by 15 members of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Organization of St. John’s Parish which has been a long-time partner of the University in its research and extension programs.

Said project is being funded by the Department of Agriculture through Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) - Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF). //

## UP-Baguio reviews IFSU on preservation and restoration of artifacts

FLORIDA B. ROBLES



**REVITALIZING TRACES OF CULTURAL IDENTITY:** Dr. Analyn Salvador-Amores (right), Director of the Museo Kordilyera of the University of the Philippines shows a demonstration to IFSU President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon and DCPIA Director Richard Baliao on the proper handling and preservation of artifacts.

The Museo Kordilyera of the University of the Philippines (UP) - Baguio headed by Director, Dr. Analyn Salvador-Amores visited the Ifugao State University (IFSU) museum on February 19, 2021 for an inspection and demonstration on how to preserve and restore artifacts.

This was after IFSU-Lamut Campus was selected by the ethnographic museum of the said university for the level 3 co-curation online activity titled "Museum Management Training for HEIs (Higher Education Institutions): Transforming University Museums as Sites of Cultural Education and Creativity Tourism Destinations".

IFSU was among the 600 participants of the 13-day webinar series level 1 from October 14 to November 31, 2020. The level II training of the said online event was conducted from February- March 2021.

The webinar-series convened educators and HEI leaders to enhance their knowledge in museum-based practices like conservation and documentation methods as well as, audiovisuals productions showcasing indigenous and indigenized crafts which can serve as inputs into cultural learning.

Moreover, it sought to provide technical assistance to improve the museums in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to become centers for cultural learning and tourist destinations.//

### *IFSU-Hapao launches ... from page 1*

stone walling, stone tiling, native house construction, weaving, wood carving, and rattan weaving. The training courses shall be offered per semester during weekends with Indigenous Knowledge holders and experts as resources speakers.

Moreover, the Center also offers an Eco-trail component. This will serve as a field school for those who want to experience and learn on the natural flora and fauna around the campus. On the other hand, the Center will soon open its research hub on culture.

IFSU Hapao Campus Executive Director

Jose Daniels said that the initiative will put the campus as a community learning center for all those who are interested to learn indigenous skills and practices.

IFSU President Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon lauded the launching of the Center as one of the University thrusts to link and build strong partnership among



# IFSU-RDET holds training on marketing Taro chips

FAITH B. NAPUDO



This two-day activity was attended by St. John Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Members of St. John Parish.

Ms. Judy Christie Bunnol and Mr. Harvey D. Gumayon of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shared strategies in promoting and selling products to the markets.

Said capacity-building training is one of the line-up activities of the project with funding from the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) - Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF).//

**MAPPING OUT FORMULA FOR EFFECTIVE MARKETING:** St. John Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Members of St. John Parish receive a lecture from staffs of the Department of Trade and Industry on how to improve marketing performance for their project products.

The team for the project titled, “Product and Market Enhancement of Galyang (*Cyrtospera chamissonis*) Taro Chips” of the Ifugao State University - Research Development, Extension and Training (IFSU - RDET) conducted a training on marketing strategies at St. John Parish, Halog, Lamut, Ifugao in March 5, 2021.

communities in promoting heritage conservation.

“IFSU champions heritage conservation. This is our way of life and identity. As a University, we are pioneering the integration of IKSP in our curricula. It is our utmost goal to produce culturally-sensitive and empowered graduates,” said Dr. Dugyon.

She added that the Center will be a venue for cultural exchange among local and international partners of the University.

“Aside from learning and understanding our own culture, the Center will also provide a platform to be adept on other cultural practices and dynamics,” added Dr. Dugyon.//

## IFSU subscribes to World Book Online

FAITH B. NAPUDO

The Ifugao State University (IFSU) is now subscribed to World Book Online for student convenience and enjoyment.

Intending to bring to its students and faculty a diverse source of data, Ifugao State University (IFSU) subscribed with the World Book Online this year.

The University's year-long subscription includes three options: Advanced, E-Books, and Discover.

World Book Online is a reliable up-to-date reference site. It presents content and tools purposely designed to make online searching trouble-free for students. Content is written at the appropriate

grade level and can be translated into different languages. Students can also set up individual accounts and use the timeline builder to stay on track.

To create an account or username and password, students need to inquire from the University Library staff.//



Internet Photo

## Juanas of IFSU Celebrated

GRETTON JOHN B. LUMAIUG & REGINA GUIMPATAN-GANO



**RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR:** IFSU Hapao Campus through the Department of Extension and Training (DTE) and Gender and Development (GAD) in partnership with Brgy. Baang of Hapao, Hungduan holds a rice transplanting activity participated by employees of the campus and volunteers.

In line with the celebration of 2021 National Women's Month, Ifugao State University (IFSU) through the Department of Gender and Development, Research and Resource Center (GADRRRC) headed by its director, Dr. Joyce A. Bodah organized a month-long activity that highlights the participation of women in the University in battling the pandemic with the theme, "Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!"

This year's celebration targets to discuss gender issues worsened by the pandemic and share support systems and government programs that address women's issues and concerns.

A launching program via Zoom was conducted to kick start the celebration of women's month on March 01, 2021.

IFSU key officials shared inspirational stories of their super Juanas/Juans in life who served as their support system amidst

challenges and work pressures.

Moreover, Ms. Frances Noelle G. Escalera, Human Resource Management Officer at Benguet State University discussed on the "Impacts of the COVID-19 on Gender Equality" during the second part of the program.

The activity aimed to inspire, encourage, and empower IFSU employees to remain hopeful amid this pandemic.

University-wide activities were conducted such as free glucose testing for all IFSU employees, a virtual forum that focuses on Stress and Women's Health, and distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on women's rights such as flyers, stickers, and bookmarks.

Women's corner was also established at the Gender and Development (GAD) units of the different campuses. Said corners will serve as a venue for coffee fellowship among women employees where they can get inspiration, guidance and counseling, and/or prayers. The Corner shall be developed to become a Women's Center. It will be maintained by the GADRRRC staff and Campus GAD Chairpersons with the Department of Human Resources and Development (DHRD).

### IFSU Hapao Campus conduct rice planting activity

To recognize the role and contribution of women in the field of agriculture, IFSU Hapao Campus through the Office of the Department of Training and Extension (DTE) and GAD in partnership with Barangay Baang conducted a rice transplanting activity in the field of Ms. Conception "Conhing" Madiwo, a senior citizen, a widow, and a rice farmer at Baang, Hungduan, Ifugao. Apu Conhing is one of those experienced farmers who advocates organic farming.

The activity is part of the program "Humiput hi Payo" where the campus shall offer free-farming services to the selected beneficiary until the completion of one rice cycle. Basic grocery items including fresh eggs from the IFSU HAPAO Campus Egg Production unit were also given to her.//



Photo courtesy of IFSU-Hapao Campus



# CAE consults stakeholders on revised graduate school curricula

FAITH B. NAPUDO



**SHAPING STANDARDS IN LINE WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS:** IFSU consults with the offices of the DepEd, PNP, BJMP, DTI, and DILG the revisions and reforms on the graduate school curricula of the University and solicit informed opinions in polishing the final draft.

for their willingness to share their expertise in enhancing our curricular offering and research thrusts.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ivan D. Baguilat, Dean for the CAE, stressed the importance of the research and curriculum which are the cornerstones of the academe.

“Being a university, our research program must be established in a way that it would really address the needs of our society that spans from local to international communities,” remarked Dr. Baguilat.

Dr. Baguilat also expressed his gratitude to the chairpersons of the various programs of the CAE for their hard work and contributions to the proposed revised program.

The College of Advanced Education (CAE) of the Ifugao State University (IFSU) convened with experts from the Department of Education, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Internal Local Government Unit, alumni, faculty, and students to present and consult with them the proposed revisions and reforms on the graduate school curricula on March 11, 2021 at IFSU – Lamut Campus.

The stakeholders' comments and suggestions were compiled and espoused in the curricula. The final draft will be subjected to approval by the Board of Regents before these are adopted in the graduate school offerings.

Said activity aims to contribute to the overarching goal of conforming with the requirements of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) and global standards of quality education.

University President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon as represented by Dr. Napoleon K. Taguiling, Main Campus Executive Director, lauded the participants

The said activity was realized through funding from the College of Distance Education and Transnational Education (CODETE).//

## IFSU hosts ... from page 1

attires, and other cultural customs and traditions.

Dr. Dugyon, on behalf of the University, expressed her gratitude to Ambassador Harpaz and party for the opportunity to showcase the unique programs and activities of the University.

"IFSU is truly blessed and honored to have forged new partnership, collaboration, and friendship with the Office of the Israel's Ambassador to the Philippines through an MOU," stated Dr. Dugyon.

The University President also lauded the Ifugao Provincial officials, Philippines National Police - Lamut, and University officials and employees for their support that has led to the success of the event.//



# Project HAGABI promotes resiliency thru backyard farming

FAITH B. NAPUDO



**CHAMPIONING FOOD SECURITY THRU BACKYARD FARMING:** Edgar Somero, one of the beneficiaries of the project HAGABI of the RDET shares the fulfilling progress of his backyard garden which houses various vegetables and legumes that serve as their source of food and income.

It's now the start of summer season so Edgar makes sure to regularly water his crops before setting out to look for an outside paid labor. He hauls a pail of water from a creek at least 30 meters down their abode in Salamague, Lamut. As soon as he gets back home, Seven, his 7-year-old firstborn has already wakened up and would refill the mini-sprayer to help him water the crops. Inside, his wife, Gema tends to their 2-year-old daughter while she reads their garden's record book and mobile phone for documentation.

Edgar's family is one of the 10 beneficiaries of the project Harnessing Agriculture to Achieve a Bountiful Ifugao (HAGABI) of Ifugao State University in Lamut, Ifugao that started last September.

Said project is being funded by DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development through its Kontra-COVID-19 program.

"My work in construction stopped because of the pandemic. I initially planned to put up a small backyard gardening so I visited the Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) for advice. Incidentally, the MAO staff shared with me about a new project by the IFSU which is the project HAGABI," Edgar quipped. "I took the chance to apply for the project."

Edgar received assorted seed packs from

project HAGABI which he sowed in his 200-sq. meter backyard garden. He also received a set of poultry animals from said project.

"I decided to increase my area because of project HAGABI. I learned while I continuously worked. I imagined how things should be," he added. "I constantly asked help from the MAO and project HAGABI team that is why I was able to practice intercropping and put up a hanging garden that also serves as a shade to the ground crops."

As his first batch of crops slowly grew, Edgar attended trainings on organic concoction and poultry management focused on feed formulation by the project team. He applies these on his crops to naturally save these from infestation.

Being a former conventional farmer,

the attempt to use chemicals in his crops comes easy. However, he will think always of his family first. For him, their garden should be pesticide-free as this is a playground for their son and a kitchen extension for his wife.

Gema who is always at home as she looks after her kids want to continue their backyard garden even if the project commences for her to have easy access to vegetables. "There's peace of mind when you know that what you set on the table is safe. The pandemic is teaching us to be healthy," she claimed. "Having a backyard garden has made my work easier being a homemaker. Food safety is one thing off the list."

Now, his backyard farm strategically houses varied vegetables and legumes such as lettuce, pechay, ampalaya, bitter melon, string beans, tomatoes, pepper, ladies' finger, eggplants, among others. He opens this for other farmers and his co-members in the Lamut Organic Practitioners Organization to visit and learn from. Edgar resolves to continue his pesticide-free farming even after the pandemic.

Edgar is an inspiration to many as only are into pesticide-free farming. Other farmers would ask how he dared to shift from conventional as the common belief is that there is no money in pesticide-free farming. More labor is put into this type of farming yet there's less harvest and has a similar price with those of chemical-laden crops.

But for Edgar, it did not take a genius mind. Apart from his family's health, it was practical that he works on a small lot considering the lack of water in their place. The most unexploited land was his backyard.

He always encourages visitors especially those starting in this type of farming to be more patient as the beginning is always the hardest. "Once you have begun, all that you have to do is to maintain it," he added.

Edgar had also some share of difficulty when he started as he hauled loam soil to add in their limited backyard soil. "It was not a garden before. It helped though that this was where we put rice and corn stalks so we had fertile soil to start with," Edgar mused.

His farm is an exception in the community in which the most common sight is corn or ricefields and vast pesticide-dependent cash crop gardens. His backyard garden beams with fresh and healthy fruits. Locals have an expression of 'tukkol-tingin' which means eye-catching. His garden, if this has ears and eyes, has heard a lot of praises and received tons of stares from passers-by.

As his crops are well tendered, his garden produces more of what their kitchen needs. He started selling these with his neighbors and in the local market.

"I sell my crops to be able to buy milk for my youngest child, and meat or protein-based products to complement our veggie-laden meal," added Edgar. While he has also poultry animals from project HAGABI, he wants this to serve as his capital. He saw that the chickens are bigger than native chicken eggs. Now, he's learning ways to increase the number so in the future they would not need to buy meat anymore.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food security as being able to meet dietary needs for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Dinah Corazon M. Licyayo, Vice President for Research Development, Extension and Training (RDED) and project proponent, shared that the project aimed for food sufficiency to families. But, for some farmer-beneficiaries like Edgar, they have gone beyond.

Record shows that Edgar was able to earn more than five thousand as of March 16. He continues to diversify his crops to meet the demands of his buyers. He has also established avid buyers or 'suki' like Girlie Estadillo, a 34-year-old market vendor.

"The crops of Edgar are distinctively different from the veggies that we buy from the market from its sight to taste. I have



the confidence of its safety from chemicals since I saw firsthand his backyard garden," claimed Girlie. "I also visit their place and ask for seedlings and advise on how to make concoctions."

Edgar's experience, like few pesticide-free backyard garden farmers in the province, is another testimony of community resilience in this time of the pandemic. Indeed, the worst time that we

are in to can bring good real-life stories.

The 'hagabi', from which the project's name has been inspired from, is a traditional ceremonial bench for Ifugao families that symbolizes wealth and power. It precedes feast and celebration. It is hoped that through project HAGABI, more families will be able to sit in a bounty seat.//

## Women workers in Lamut receive face shields

FAITH B. NAPUDO

In line with the month-long celebration of National Women's Month, representatives from the Department of Communication, Public and International Affairs (DCPIA) of Ifugao State University (IFSU) distributed 200 pieces of faceshields to women vendors, senior citizens, and homemakers at Lamut Public Market, Lamut, Ifugao on March 19.

With the theme, "Juana, laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!", said activity aims at helping women protect themselves as they continue to take care of their families amid this pandemic.

The faceshields were donated by Col. Levi Hope B. Basilio, an alumnus of Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry (now IFSU) - Laboratory High School.

The remaining 200 faceshields will be distributed in other municipalities.

This is under project OURS (Outreach for United and Responsive Service).//



# IFSU holds gender mainstreaming, maps GAD agenda

RONALINE C. CANUTE



**BREAKING BARRIERS AND ADAPTING GENDER POLICIES:** DSWD representative and resource speaker Joseline P. Niwane (middle) is joined by the University President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon and staff during the two-day virtual seminar workshop on Gender Mainstreaming which aims to familiarize participants on GAD tools, systems, policies and programs.



The Ifugao State University's Officials, Gender and Development Focal Point Systems (GFPS) and Administrative Council (ADCO) members participated in the two-day virtual seminar-workshop on Gender Mainstreaming and GAD agenda preparation.

The activity aims to further strengthen the GFPS of the University, improve the understanding of the institution on Gender Mainstreaming, help IFSU comply with the provisions of the law and policies by regulating agencies, and to ensure that the offices are well adept in the GAD tools, systems, policies and programs

The GAD Plan and Budget 2021 of the University, which was prepared in

accordance to the guidelines of Joint Circular (DBM-NEDA-PCW) 2012-01, prioritizes the implementation of the mandate stated in RA 9710 and CMO 01-2015 which is the capacitation of the University's faculty and staff in Gender policies, tools, and systems. One of which is the conduct of a Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming to the GFPS and the University officials.

Hence, the Assistant Secretary for

Policy and Plans-Department of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Joseline P. Niwane who served as the resource speaker detailed to the participants how this would be attained. She also let the participants share their thoughts and inputs on how they can be a part in the undertakings of the university particularly on gender mainstreaming.

The activity was made possible through the effort of the GADRRRC headed by Director Joyce Boddah and with full support from the University President Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon.//

## IFSU Lagawe continues facelift on campus grounds

FAITH B. NAPUDO

The Ifugao State University (IFSU) – Lagawe Campus continues to conduct a facelift of its ground through the General Services Office.

The groundwork includes clearing and leveling of the athletic oval; a proposed area for the Metals and Engineering Innovation Center (MEIC); and a space razed by fire years back.

Dr. Vicky Cadalig, Campus Executive Director, expressed her gratitude to the

Office of the Provincial Governor Jerry U. Dalipog; Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for its provision of operators and equipment; and the University President Dr. Eva Marie Codamon-Dugyon for full support to all the campus' undertakings.//

