

Amancio Agri-Tourism Academy, DA-RFO 02, ISU and NVSU launch drive thru store and restaurant amidst pandemic

In another proof of public and private engagement, the Amancio Agri-Tourism Academy (AATA) Inc., in tandem with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA-RFO 02), Isabela State University (ISU), Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and other local and national agencies today launched a Drive Thru Store and Restaurant.

Located at the boundary of Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya provinces, particularly in Caquilingan, Cordon, Isabela, the newly opened Amancio Nicolas Farm Restaurant owned by Amancio Group will serve a wide array of organic foods in a reasonable price not only to local but foreign travellers.

“We braved the rains and heat of the sun and worked overtime just to put up this facility to everyone,” said Noemi Liangco, AATA President.

“As our valued partner in this endeavour, today is an opportune time to show our solidarity to the whole world,” she said. “That together, in the name of agriculture, we can make this happen amidst the pandemic and as we embrace the new normal.”

Liangco expressed her willingness to continuously inspire citizens, young and old, to love and practice agriculture.

Representing Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar, Regional Executive Director Narciso A. Edillo of DA-RFO 02 thanked the Amancio Agri-Tourism Academy for initiating the undertaking that is related to the mandate of the department.

“Ang adhikaing ito at konkretong ehemplo ng private sector support sa agriculture sector lalo na ngayon na tayo ay nasa pandemya,” he mentioned.

Edillo discussed the new programs of the department as introduced by Secretary Dar such as the Agri-Negosyo (ANYO) Loan Program and Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) Program also known as “Bayanihan sa Agrikultura” or “Bayan Agri.”

He explained that ANYO offers loans of P300,000.00 minimum to P15 Million maximum to finance capital requirements of agri-fishery based micro and small enterprises.

“It is open to Individuals, sole proprietors, partnership, corporations, and cooperatives whose owners or members are marginalized, small farmers and fisherfolk.”

Edillo presented that F2C2 program aims to organize farmers and fisherfolk and provide them necessary assistance for them to be more competitive in the whole agricultural value chain.

“This will help the government attain economies of scale and enable more farmers, fishers, and agriculture entrepreneurs to produce and earn more from their toil,” he said.

“I am presenting these to encourage everyone to go into agricultural ventures as the Amancio Group did.”

Amancio Agri-Tourism Academy is part of the triumvirate of the Amancio Dairy and Produce Farm (ADPF) and Amancio Farm and Hotel (AFH) with Liangco as co-owner.

The academy provides tourist delights in the farm but also food for the body and education for the mind in support to establishing agri-tourism sites in the country.

Its mission is “to develop competitive human capital creating wealth and opportunities in the areas of agribusiness, sustainable agriculture, and agri-tourism.”

The 60-hectare Amancio Farm is actively carrying out measures to implement sustainable agriculture. They grow native chickens, pigs, carabaos, Murrah dairy buffaloes, sheep and goats.

The Academy accepts culinary, agricultural and animal science interns and livestock farming giving emphasis on farming and raising livestock without causing damage or harm to the environment.

The farm's internship program puts emphasis on the need to champion agriculture in order to improve the quality of life and the standard of living in rural areas.

As support, DA and ATI provided technical services and agricultural inputs to the academy while the SUCs the trainings on product processing and packaging.

Aside from Edillo, other guests from partners are Dr. Ricmar Aquino, President of ISU, Dr. Andres Taguian, President of NVSU, Provincial Agriculturist Marites Frogoso of Isabela and officials of Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Region 02.
