



## Kalinga agri extension worker wins national award

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PASIL, Kalinga, Nov. 24 (PIA) - - An employee of the Pasil Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) brought distinct honor to the province by winning this year's top award in the search for National Agriculture Extension Worker for Organic Agriculture Category by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Provincial Rice Program Coordinator Joe Casibang reported Rowena Gunnay bested other 55 national nominees for the award which recognizes excellent performance of agriculture extension workers under DA's program in promoting organic farming in the country.

Gunnay received her trophy and P30,000 cash incentive during the National Organic Agriculture Convention in Davao City, recently.

What made Gunnay win the prestigious award, according to Casibang, were her efforts in organizing, training and empowering upland farmers in Pasil on organic farming technology that boosted their production of Kalinga's vaunted upland Unoy Rice.

Because of her efforts, Pasil Unoy farmers had increased and sustained their export of Kalinga's pure organic upland Unoy Rice to the US. She maintains a library of all her works, which she shares as reference materials to farmers.

Alternative organic farming technology advocates use of indigenous and natural inputs, which are proven environment-friendly and less cost in place of commercial inorganic implements, Casibang explained.

The technology applies in the production of rice, corn, high-value crops and adapted in the integrated farming system now practiced by many farmers in the province.

In 2013, eleven agriculture extension workers from Kalinga had won national awards from DA. (JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga)

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