**Staff member from the Philippine Coconut Authority Ilocos Norte, Laoag, 14/03/2018**

* 7500 seedlings of coconut were planted in 75 hectares in a neighboring barangay of Caunayan -> they were planted by the company, but the PCA (Philippine Coconut Authority) provided the inputs and helped the company as their extension service -> the company did not have to pay for the support of the PCA -> the planting was done in 2010, the year before the tsunami in Japan
* The operations were stopped in 2011; someone still takes care of the plantation but is not in good shape; part of it were eaten by the carabaos; the land used for the plantation is public land; so far there has not been any harvesting as the coconut takes about 7 to 10 years for the first output
* The investment included a memorandum of understanding between the DENR (who is responsible as public land was supposed to be used), the PCA and BENLINC -> I do not know what is in the MOU as it was signed by the secretaries of these agencies
* Some of the area that was initially planned for the coconut plantation is now used by NLREC for the windparks -> they need 1 to 5 hectares per turbine
* Windpark caused some conflict of land between windmills and cocnut -> company cleared land for windmills and also cut down some coconut plantations by local farmers ->PCA overlooked the cutting of the coconut trees -> the farmers were compensated but I do not know how much -> we did a validation of the trees but it was up to the company do decide on the compensation
* The PCA is still interested in the biofuels production -> due to the biofuels act a certain degree of biofuels needs to be mixed into fuel but here in Ilocos Norte we do not have the resources for that so far
* We do encourage coconut planting through the “Accelerated Coconut Planting Process” which has two components:
  + 1. Participatory coconut project -> incentives for farmers who have their own inputs to grow more coconut
  + 2. Coconut seedlings dispersal project -> inputs provided for those farmers who can not afford -> they have to “pay” back in form of seedlings after 7 years -> in that way the PCA has more seedlings to disperse
* In some regions in the Philippines biofuels in produces through using coconut