

Sustainability Times



Growing Together: Investing in People, Communities and Industry



For over a decade, Wilmar Edible Oils Philippines Inc. (WEOPI) has believed that every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential, wherever a child is born.

In 2015, WEOPI transformed that belief into action by launching the WEOPI Scholarship Programme, which provides access to tertiary education for children of farmers in rural communities, where access to quality education is limited. In 2024, the programme expanded to include the dependents of WEOPI employees, extending that same opportunity to families belonging to the WEOPI community.

While the programme has grown over the years, its purpose remains unchanged: to break the cycle of poverty by giving deserving young people the opportunity to complete their education, build meaningful careers, and create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

121 Scholar Graduates and Counting

This year marks another proud milestone for the WEOPI Scholarship Programme. With the graduation of 22 scholars from Batch 7, the programme has now supported 121 graduates since its inception.

The latest group comprises ten graduates from Gingoog, nine from Roxas and three from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) under the Scholarship Extension Programme. Together, they represent a diverse range of disciplines, from engineering and accountancy to agribusiness and nursing, all skills that will contribute not only to their own futures but also to the continued growth of their communities and industries.



More importantly, every graduate represents something far greater than a number.

Behind each diploma is a family that no longer has to choose between education and financial hardship. Every graduate is proof that access to education can transform lives, opening doors to meaningful careers, creating opportunities for future generations and strengthening the communities WEOPI calls home.

Scholar Success Stories

Every scholarship tells a different story, but they all begin with opportunity. This year, WEOPI proudly celebrates three former scholars who achieved significant milestones by passing their professional licensure examinations. Their success reflects years of hard work, perseverance and determination, made possible through the support of their families, their own commitment to excellence, and the opportunities provided through the WEOPI Scholarship Programme.

They are now not only graduates but licensed professionals, ready to begin the next chapter of their careers.

Engr. Jhon Carlo L. Bustaliño

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Andres Bonifacio College – Class of 2025

At just 22 years old, Jhon Carlo has already achieved a milestone many aspire to: becoming a licensed electrical engineer.

Growing up in Labakid, Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte, he credits the WEOPI Scholarship Programme with easing the financial burden on his family and allowing him to focus fully on his studies. More than financial assistance, the programme helped him develop the discipline, resilience and problem-solving mindset that continue to guide him today.

As he prepares to begin his professional career, he remains committed to continuous learning and self-improvement.

“Always value the opportunity given to you and make the most of it. Stay focused on your goals, work hard and never stop learning. There may be challenges along the way, but perseverance, discipline and determination will help you succeed. Every experience is a chance to learn and become better.”



Engr. Deoni May C. Bagatua

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Andres Bonifacio College – Class of 2025

For Deoni May, becoming a Registered Electrical Engineer was the culmination of years of perseverance. After seven months of dedicated review, she successfully passed the April 2026 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination (REELE), bringing pride not only to herself but also to her family in Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte.



She describes the WEOPI Scholarship Programme as life-changing. It allowed her to pursue her education without the constant worry of financial constraints, giving her the freedom to focus on achieving her goals. Along the way, she learned the importance of responsibility, discipline and making the most of every opportunity.

She now looks forward to building her career as a licensed engineer.

"Stay focused on your goals and appreciate the opportunity given to you. Use the scholarship wisely and don't be afraid of challenges because they will help you grow stronger and more determined. Keep believing in yourself, continue working hard, and always remember where you started because your education can change not only your own life but also the future of your family."

Engr. Serg Earl P. Bachiller

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Andres Bonifacio College – Class of 2025

Serg Earl never considered himself an exceptional student. What he lacked in confidence, however, he made up for with determination. That determination carried him through university and ultimately to becoming a licensed mechanical engineer.

The WEOPI Scholarship Programme relieved the financial pressures that might otherwise have stood in the way of his education. More importantly, it gave him the confidence to keep going, even after setbacks, and inspired him to push beyond his own expectations. He hopes his journey will encourage future scholars to believe in themselves and make the most of every opportunity.



"Wilmar saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. I even failed one subject during my college days, but Wilmar gave me another chance to prove myself and give it another shot. And there I made every effort until I got my mechanical engineering licence. I am very thankful. To future scholars: pour your best into your studies, because not everyone is chosen to be a Wilmar Scholar."

While the WEOPI Scholarship Programme reflects our commitment to investing in people, we are also helping to strengthen the wider coconut industry through knowledge sharing and collaboration. Earlier this year, the WEOPI Gingoog team shared its expertise at the Coconut: Wealth and Wellness Forum 2.0, highlighting practical ways to improve product quality and support a more sustainable and resilient coconut industry.



Sharing Expertise to Strengthen the Coconut Industry

On 18 May 2026, the WEOPI Gingoog team participated as resource speakers at the *Coconut: Wealth and Wellness Forum 2.0*, held in Butuan City as part of the 2026 CARAGA Coconut Festival – Balangay Edition.

Organised by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – CARAGA Region, the forum brought together coconut farmers, MSMEs, industry experts and government agencies to exchange ideas on product quality, market opportunities and innovation in the coconut industry.

For WEOPI, the event provided an opportunity to share practical knowledge supporting safer, higher-quality coconut products while reinforcing the company's commitment to responsible sourcing and sustainability.



Raising the Bar for Coconut Quality

A highlight of WEOPi's presentation was the session "Understanding MOSH/MOAH Contaminants and Coconut Product Quality Standards" presented by Mr Aldan Rae Tubo. The session provided practical guidance on preventing contamination by Mineral Oil Saturated Hydrocarbons (MOSH) and Mineral Oil Aromatic Hydrocarbons (MOAH), including proper copra handling, drying practices and measures to improve product quality.

Alongside him, Mr Alfon M. Aisa from WEOPi Gingoog's Human Resources team introduced WEOPi's broader sustainability journey, highlighting the company's community programmes, child welfare initiatives and commitment to preventing child labour.



The Conversations Continue

More than 100 participants, from coconut farmers and copra suppliers to members of the public, attended the session, making it one of the forum's most interactive sessions. Local copra suppliers, in particular, welcomed the opportunity to learn practical approaches that could enhance both product quality and market competitiveness.

The conversation continued well after the event. Since the forum, several stakeholders have expressed interest in future collaborations and further discussions on sustainable coconut production and MOSH/MOAH awareness.

By sharing expertise and working alongside farmers, suppliers and industry partners, WEOPi is helping build a stronger, more sustainable and globally competitive Philippine coconut industry.