

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to determine the farmer's awareness about organic farming, determine if organic farming is acceptable in the place, and identify the reasons why farmer don't practice organic and why they practice organic farming in the place.

Respondents of the study were 100 farmers from Daclan, Tublay, Benguet and respondents were chosen randomly.

Out of the one hundred respondents twenty-four were willing to accept organic farming. Six of these who were willing to accept were already practicing organic farming. On the other hand, seventy-six of the respondents were not willing to accept it as their method of farming. Sixty-seven (67) respondents were aware of organic farming and 33 respondents were not aware.

The reasons why respondents are willing to accept organic farming, were that organic farming is good to the health of the farmers, health of the consumers, premium price, less cost of farm inputs, manageable, and to bring back the proper fertility of the soil.



The reasons of the respondents for not adopting organic farming were the following; laborious, no market, low demand, low yield production, hard to manage and no beginning income/ capital and too risky.

It is concluded that farmer's preferred conventional farming rather than organic farming even though most of the respondents were aware of organic farming. Their decisions in accepting organic farming was affected by their long experienced in farming as conventional farmer and other factors like low yield, no market and laborious. The conducted seminars and trainings was not convincing for them to accept organic farming.

It is recommended that more seminars and trainings should be conducted in the municipality of Tublay, Benguet, however the seminar should present facts or figures about the good effect of organic to the health of farmers and consumers and other advantages of organic farming. The organization should also assist the farmers in their farm in order for them to be encouraged to convert in organic farming. The LGU through agriculture office should exert more efforts in convincing the other farmer to accept organic farming by providing assistance/support like providing seeds and organic fertilizers for them to start organic farming. The municipal government should allot funds for the dissemination of information about organic farming in order for the farmers to fully understand what organic farming is. With the help of other organization like Benguet State University to disseminate information about organic farming and also provide extra trainings for the farmers in order to have progress in organic farming in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet. Assistance/market linkage of organic farmers by the DA through the AMAD is also needed to convince the farmers to accept organic farming in their place.



INTRODUCTION

Rationale

Organic farming was the first farming method that was used by our ancestors during their time. During that time there were no chemically synthesized fertilizers, pesticides, and other form of farm technologies that farmers are using today.

Organic farming, system of agriculture that uses environmentally sound techniques for raising crops and livestock that is free from most synthetic pesticides, growth hormones, and antibiotics. Organic farmers typically rely on pesticides and fertilizers derived from plants, animal wastes, and minerals. They incorporate biological methods, such as the use of one organism to suppress another, to help control pests. The methods used in organic farming seek to increase soil fertility, balance insect populations, and reduce air, soil, and water pollution (Hynes, 2007).

According to Deshmukh (2010), International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) defines the goal of organic farming as a production system that sustains the life of the soil, the ecosystem and the people. Organic agriculture combines traditional innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationship and good quality of life for all involved.

Hence, the development of organic farming was related not only to the materials used for soil fertility and crop protection but also had a base of managing a farm system with integration of soil, crops, animals, and society (Barker, 2010).



Organic farming helps to develop and return the nutrients and minerals of the soil that was destroyed by the effects of chemicals that was used in the farm; this is supported by Deshmukh (2010), who stated that organic farming cares for the soil than to the crop.

The key to successful farming, therefore, was to feed the soil not the plant (Lawrence, *et al.* 2006).

In the Philippines, based on R.A 10068, the government has declared a policy to promote, develop and implement organic practices in order to protect the health of the farmers, consumers, and the general public.

The government has a strong support in organic farming, however this needs further verification to the farmers if they also support and willing to adopt organic farming.

On other hand organic farming is playing a very important role in the society, and also in the environment. It gives a lot of benefits not only to human being but also in the environment including the animals, and other living organisms.

In the province of Benguet, according to Quintos (2011), stated in her article that Crescencio Pacalso estimated below 10 % of the entire farming industry of Benguet is under organic farming.

According to provincial Agriculturist Lolita Bentrez there are 142 registered organic farmers in Benguet, 42 of which are in La Trinidad town which are members of La Trinidad, Organic Practitioners Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LATOP-MPC), the rest are all over other Municipalities of Benguet (Quintos, 2011).

In the municipality of Tublay, Benguet, there are few organic practitioner, other farmers prefer conventional farming because of the mass production of farm products in the market, compared to organic products. Some of the organic products are sold on the



conventional market simply because there are few organic retail outlets (Lawrence, *et al.* 2006).

Most of the farmers in Tublay are relying on commercial fertilizers, pesticides and other forms of chemicals in order to enhance the quality and quantity of their farm products. Because they are so focus on how they could gain money from their farm, not knowingly they are slowly destroying the soil including them and the consumers.

Since organic farming has a good impact to the soil, environment, and to the people, it is then important to determine if the farmers in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet are aware of organic farming and if they are informed about these.

Statement of the Problem

This study on “Assessment on Farmers Acceptability of Organic Farming in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet” aimed to answer the following questions:

1. Is organic farming acceptable in the place?
2. Are the farmers aware of organic farming?
3. What are the reasons why they don't practice organic farming and reasons for adopting organic farming?

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study were:

1. To determine if the farmers are aware of organic farming;
2. To determine if organic farming is acceptable in the place; and,



3. To identify the reasons why farmers don't practice organic or they practice organic farming in the place.

Importance of the Study

The result of the study would serve as a reference material for students specially Bachelor of Science in Agriculture for more extensive research on organic farming and other related studies; the result would serve as basis for Benguet State University-Cordillera Organic Agriculture Research and Development Center (BSU-COARDC) in developing strategies and plans for the promotion of organic agriculture in the CAR region; Furthermore, the result would be basis of other researchers in their studies and strategies in improving organic products; and for technology generation on organic farming.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study was conducted in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet. The study focused on the awareness and acceptability on organic farming.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Organic Farming vs. Conventional Agriculture

Organic farming works in harmony with nature rather than against it. This innovates using techniques to achieve good crop yield without harming the natural environment or the people who live and work in it (Infonet-biovision, 2012).

Conventional agriculture refers to the standard, dominant farming approaches promoted and researched by most government and agribusiness groups and practiced by farmers and growers throughout the world. Usually conventional agriculture imposes no restriction on management other than those required by law (Kritiansen, *et al.* 2006).

History of Organic Farming

According to Barker (2010), in the 1920s and 1930s organic farming began promoting the concept of management of farm as a living unit or whole system. In 1940, Lord Northbourne an agronomist in England introduced the term “organic” in relation to farming in his book entitled *Look to the Land*, and about 70 years ago in the United States, Rodale introduced the organic movement with publications that advocated for health through farming organically. The organizations of the Rodale Institute in the United States, the Soil Association in the United Kingdom, and the Soil Health in New Zealand were founded as associations devoted to study and promote organic farming. At about the same time similar organizations arose in Germany and Japan. During the 1980s and later, the involvement of government agencies in organic farming increased. In the early years, about 1940s to 1970, the local operation of organic farming is between consumers and farmers or retailer only,



but because of the expansion of organic production and market in 1970s, consumers, growers and marketers needed means of proving that the produce product as being organically grown. Because of this phenomenon certification agency is formed. Because of the different definition of the term “organic” among biologist, chemist and practitioner, no universally accepted definition or identification of organic farming and gardening was developed.

Why Organic Farming?

Continuous and non-judicious use of synthetic agriculture inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides have resulted in the deterioration of soil fertility as well as human health (Deshmukh, 2010).

The general adverse effects of chemical farming are loss of soil fertility and productivity, high cost of cultivation, development of pest resistance to chemical pesticides, loss of beneficial organisms (soil microorganism), and lastly the loss of beneficial parasites and predators (Deshmukh, 2010).

Why Farm Organically?

Organic farming provides long-term benefits to the people and the environment. Organic farming aims to increase long-term soil fertility, control pests and diseases without harming the environment, ensure that water stays clean and safe use resources which the farmer already has, to lessen expenses to buy farm inputs, and also to provide nutritious food for human and animals and high quality crops to sell at a good price (Infonet-biovision, 2012).



Implication of Organic Farming

According to Deshmukh (2009), the implication of organic farming principles outlined by the International Federation of Organic Movement plead for the maintenance of eco-environment and avoidance of all these practices that spread any kind of pollution.

What Motivates Conversion to Organic Production?

Padel (2001), as cited by Lawrence, *et al.* (2006), summarizes these motives such as, personal motives related to concern both for the health and safety of the farm family, and wider social and ecological concerns such as, environmental protection and development of rural communities; and farm related motives concerned with both the health of soil and farm on the short and long-term financial well-being of the farm business.

The Foundational Values of Organic Agriculture

According to the BSU organic module (2009), there are many reasons for farmers to convert to organic agriculture but these following are commonly mentioned.

Health. Organic practitioners argue that organic food is healthier than food produced in modern conventional agriculture because of the following reasons such as; reduce health hazards to farmers and consumers, more vitamins, minerals and antioxidants in organic food, and organic food maybe fresher if sold to local markets compared to distant.

Environmental. Because of the following environmental ethics, such as clean air and water it does not harm beneficial insects and animals, improves plant and animal biodiversity, zero chemical impact from farming activity on land and water quality, and



soil management that increases the health of soil, many organic farmers engage in organic farming.

Spiritual. Some of health and environmental values of people are founded on spiritual or religious teaching such as; references in the Bible, traditional Cordilleran spiritual values for the environment, and other religious teachings related to agriculture.

Economic. These following economic factors such as sustainability, lower input cost, premium prices, and export possibilities, farmers engage in organic farming.

Life style. Organic farming is a way of life which people will often make a conscious decision to change to as it is a healthier and satisfying alternative but due to career change, semi- retirement, and strengthen business ethics, people often start organic farms in later life.

The Status of Organic Agriculture in the Cordilleras

According on BSU organic module (2009), farmers in the cordilleras are on slowly converting their farms to organic due to some resistance or hesitance to change such as, conventional agriculture is being practice in the Cordillera, for many farmers converting their farm to organic is too risky, and in terms of farm certification, the cost is high and has expected to have low crop yields and low income during the transition phase. The local and provincial government is also one of the resistance or hesitance because of their limited support for change. There are also few complete training programs, and many programs are too expensive for the farmers, Because of these problemsfarmers end-up trusting chemicals to solve farming problems rather than their own knowledge and skills.



The Status of Organic Agriculture Nationally

Based on BSU organic module (2009), the Philippine Organic Industry is in an early stage of development however organic farming in the Philippines is rapidly developing because less than 1% represents organic food production mainly in horticulture and agronomy.

Government and Non-Government Organizations in the Cordilleras

There are many different actors in the local Organic Agriculture Industry including the following such as, the Benguet State University (BSU), the Department of Agriculture (DA), La Trinidad Organic Practitioners Multipurpose Cooperative (LaTOP-MPC), Benguet Network of People's Oriented Organization (Benguet Net), Cordillera Green Network (CGN), and the Cordillera Organic Agriculture Development Council Incorporated (COADCI).

Methods of Organic Farming

Natural pest and disease control. Pests and disease are part of nature. In the ideal system there is a natural balance between predators and pests. If the system is balanced then one population can become dominant because it is not being preyed upon by another. The aim of natural control is to restore natural balance between pests and predators and to keep pests and diseases down to an acceptable level. The aim is not to eradicate them altogether (Infonet-biovision, 2012).



Chemical control. Pesticides does not solve the pest problem. In the past 50 years, insecticide use has increased tenfold, while crops losses from pest damage have doubled (Infonet-biovision, 2012).

In addition, Infonet-biovision (2012), emphasize three important reasons why natural control is preferable to pesticide.

Safety for people. According to Infonet-biovision (2012), artificial pesticides harmed the health of the people eating foods which still contain residues of pesticides that were sprayed on crop. There is also effect to the people using chemical pesticides, because some products is misused because the instruction were not written in the language spoken by the person using them. This had led to many accidents, such as skin rashes, headaches and even poisoning by the pesticides that they are using that result to death.

Cost. Using natural pests and diseases control is often cheaper than applying chemical pesticides because natural methods do not involve buying materials from outside. Products and materials which are already in the home and around the farm are often used (Infonet-biovision, 2012).

Safety for the environment. According to Infonet-biovision (2012), there are harmful effects of chemical pesticides on the environment such as, chemical pesticide can kill useful insects which eat pests. Just one spray can upset the balance between pests and the useful predators which eat them. Artificial chemicals can also stay in the environment and in the bodies of animals causing problems for many years. Insects and pests can very quickly, over a breeding cycle, become resistant to artificial products and are no longer controlled. This means that increased amounts or stronger chemical are then needed creating further economic, health and environmental problems.



Natural control. Base on Infonet-biovision (2012), that through careful planning and using all the other techniques available it should be possible to avoid the needed for any crop spraying. If the pest is still a problem, natural products can be used to manage pests. Using natural product should be limited as much as possible and it is wise to check with national and inter-national organic standards to see which are allowed or recommended.

There are many ways in which the organic farmer can control pests and diseases like growing healthy crops that suffer less damage from pests and diseases, choosing crops with natural resistance to specific pests and diseases because local varieties are better at resisting local pest and diseases than introduced varieties. Timely planting of crops to avoid the period when a pest does most damage. Companion planting with other crops that pest will avoid, such as onion or garlic. Trapping or picking pests from the crop and identifying pest and disease correctly will also help the farmer control pests and diseases (Infonet-biovision, 2012).

Cultural control. It is deliberate manipulation of the environment to make it less favorable for pests by disrupting their reproductive cycle, eliminating their food or making it more favorable for their natural enemies (Deshmukh, 2010).

Cropping methods. We have three cropping methods. The first one is crop rotation defined as growing the same crop in the same site year after year which reduces soil fertility and can encourage or built up pests, diseases and weeds. It also means having times where the fertility of the soil is being built up and times where crops are grown which removes



nutrients. Crops should be moved to a different area of land each year and not return to the original site for several years. For vegetables, a three to four year rotation is recommended as minimum (Infonet-biovision, 2012).

The second method is trap cropping which is the practice of attracting pests to small planting of crops which are then destroyed (Deshmukh, 2010).

The last method is intercropping where two or more crops are grown together. Each must have adequate space to maximize cooperation and minimize competition between the crops. Inter row space is a potential place for weeds which can be put to better use by intercropping (BSU organic module, 2009).

Weed control. According to Infonet-biovision (2012), the aim of weed control is not necessarily to eliminate weed but to control because weeds do have some useful purposes, like they can provide protection from erosion, food for animals and beneficial insects and food for human use.

Green manure. Green manuring is the plowing under or soil incorporation of any green manure crops while they are green soon after they flower. Green manure is forage or leguminous crops that are grown for their leafy materials needed for soil conservation (BSU organic module, 2009).

Composting. Base on Infonet-biovision (2012), compost is organic matter or plant and animal residues which have been rotted down by the action of bacteria and other organisms, over a period of time. Compost has many advantages over chemical fertilizers such as; these provide nutrients for plants but do not improve soil structure.



Organic Certification in the Philippines

Certification is defined as a system by which the conformity of products, services, practices, etc. to applicable standards is determined and confirmed. This confirmation can be done either by the first party which is the supplier, the second party which is the customer, or the third party an independent body.

Certification is the procedure by which an independent third party gives written assurance that a clearly identified production or processing system or methodically assessed and conforms to specified requirements/ standards.

Certification is one way of ensuring that products claimed to be organic are actually produced according to organic farming principles. It is way of protecting consumers, producers, and traders against the use of misleading or deceptive labels. It is also a marketing instrument enabling procedures to access markets for organic products and obtains premium prices. It is also creates transparency as information in certified producing organizations and their products is made public (Organic Certification of the Philippines, 2012).

Why is Certification Needed?

Organic certification was developed to benefit both producers of organic products and its consumers. The process has the following benefits such as; to build trust between consumers and producers, to improve and standardize the quality of organic products, to protect producers from fraudulent products, and to create a “brand” for true product (BSU organic module, 2009).



Economic Benefits for the Farmers

Organic certification provides economic benefits for the farmers. It provides brand recognition and market security and allows expansion of market area where in the business have the ability to sell as organic in markets that they are not personally known. It also strengthens the organic industry by creating across the board standards and quality. It helps to prevent dishonest labeling and sale of non-organic products which can be harmful to the industry through the sale of unsafe or poor quality products and potentially destroy customers trust. Organic certification also encourages organization of industry stakeholders which increases ease of management and business dealings. International certification allows producers to tap into lucrative overseas market (BSU organic module, 2009).

Consumers Benefits

According to BSU organic module, 2009, organic certification is used to inform consumers of what they are buying. They can make decisions and be confident of what health benefits, quality and safety of the product.

Certification standards not only ensure products free from synthetic chemicals but also require environmental standards such as conservation and rehabilitation. Consumers are able to contribute to environmental conservation by choosing to buy products that support and utilize sustainable practices.



It also increases farmers or consumers trust where in consumers can be confident about the product they are buying and it is easily identifiable for them. This assists in creating reducing risk in markets for organic producers.

Philippine Organic Agriculture Act of 2010

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, and save on imported farm inputs. Towards this end, a comprehensive program for the promotion of community-based organic agriculture systems which include, among others, farmer-produced purely organic fertilizers such as compost, pesticides and other farm inputs, together with a nationwide educational and promotional campaign for their use and processing as well as adoption of organic agriculture system as a viable alternative shall be undertaken.

The State recognizes and supports the central role of the farmers, indigenous people and other stakeholders at the grassroots in this program (Lawphil, 2012).

International Standards

Many regions of the country did not have locally accessible certifying agencies. These differences created problems of lack of certification, lack of uniform standards, unreasonable fees, and even fraud. To address these problems, the organic community



sought federal legislation to enact national standards for certification of organic farming (Barker, 2010).

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) has produced a set of international standards, laid down by people from many countries. This gives guidelines about what organic farming is and how it should be practiced on the farm (Infonet-biovision, 2012).

In addition according to Infonet-biovision (2012), that the international standards are also used to help countries set their own standards. To address the problems about organic farming products produced, the organic standards authority gives symbol to the farm which have followed the standards to certify and ensured that people know that the product which they buy is organic.



METHODOLOGY

Locale and Time of the Study

The study was conducted in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet, one of the 8 barangays of the Municipality of Tublay, Benguet. Daclan is classified as a rural place where there are conventional farmers and organic farmers that can help in the study.

The study was conducted from October 2012 to December 2012.

Respondents of the Study

A total of one hundred (100) farmer's respondents were the source of information. Respondents were chosen randomly.

Data Gathering Procedure

The data were gathered through personal interview with the use of interview schedule.

Data Gathered

The data gathered were the acceptability and awareness of the farmer toward organic farming adaptation, and the reasons why farmer practice organic farming and why not practice.

Data Analysis

The data gathered were tabulated and analyzed using frequency analysis.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of gender, age, educational attainment, farm size, tenurial status, major source of income and other source of income.

Gender. Majority (67%) of the respondents in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet were male. This implies that most of the farmers were male.

Age. A more of the farmers were 51 years old and above (38%), sixteen percent were less than 30 years old, fifteen percent were 46-50 years old, fourteen percent were 36-40 years old, twelve percent were 31-35 years old and only five percent were 41-45 years old. The result also implies that majority of the respondents were at their middle age and senior citizen.

Educational attainment. Higher percentage of the respondents (40%) were high school level, 33% were elementary level, there were 25% who mentioned that they were in college level and 2% had finished a vocational course. This implies that the respondents had attended formal education.

Farm size. Majority (69%) of the respondents has only less than 1 hectare farm, the rest of the respondents has 1 to 2 hectares (30%) and only one respondent claimed to have 3-4 hectares farm in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet.

In addition, the result of the study shows that the respondents has only enough farm to sustain their daily needs in life and also the needs of their farm.



Tenurial status. Result shows that there were 86 respondents who are full owner of the land they were farming, while there were 14 respondents who are full owner and at the same time renting a farm to cultivate. The result implies that some of the respondents have its own farm but because they want to expand their farm they rented others farm for them to increase their income.

Major source of income. The result shows that most of the respondents major income is in gardening/ farming (86%). the respondents rely on gardening in order to maintain or supply their daily needs in life. There were respondents who were not farming but are suppliers of inputs to other farmers and these were their major source of income.

Other source of income. The result shows that the respondent has other source of income such as; suppliers, labor, and livestock's. Result implies that they also need other source of income because the price of farm products in the market is unstable. For them to have enough income to maintain the needs of their farm the farmers rely on suppliers help. Some also of the respondents do labor in other farm to supplement their income. Livestock production also helps them to increase their income and their livestock are sold in the market or to their neighbors.

Table 1. Socio-demographic profile of the respondent

PROFILE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Gender		
Male	67	67
Female	33	33
TOTAL	100	100

Table 1. Continued...

PROFILE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
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Age		
Less than 30	16	16
31-35	12	12
36-40	14	14
41-45	5	5
46-50	15	15
51 and above	38	38
TOTAL	100	100
Educational attainment		
Elementary level	33	33
High school level	40	40
College level	25	25
Vocational	2	2
TOTAL	100	100
Farm size		
Less than 1 hectare	69	69
1-2 hectares	30	30
3-4 hectares	1	1
TOTAL	100	100
Tenurial status		
Full owner	86	86
Full owner and rented	14	14
TOTAL	100	100
Major source of income		
Garden	86	86
Suppliers of farm inputs	14	14
TOTAL	100	100
Other source of income		
Suppliers	63	73.26
Labor	18	20.93
Livestocks	5	5.81

*Multiple Response



Number of Organic and Conventional Farmers

One hundred farmers from Daclan, Tublay, Benguet served as respondents. Out of the 100 farmers 94 were into conventional farming and 6 were into organic farming (Table 2).

Number of years in farming. Table 3 shows the number of years in conventional farming and the number of years in organic farming of the respondents. The result of the study shows that more of the respondents (30.85%) were 11-20years experience in farming, 24.47% were 1-10 years experienced, 23.40% were 21-30 years experienced, 17.02% were 31-40 years experienced, and there were only 3.19% who had experienced 41-50 years in farming. From the 6 organic farmers 2 have less than 1 year experience in organic production, 2 have 1-2 years of experience, and another 2 have 3-4 years experience in organic farming.

In addition the result of the study explains that the respondents who claimed to be organic farmer have less number of years experience in organic farming. This further show that some of them are in the stage of converting their farm into organic, like the 2 respondents who were less than a year and 2 with 1-2 years experience in organic farming.

Table 2. Number of organic and conventional farmers

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Conventional	94	94
Organic	6	6
TOTAL	100	100



Table 3. Numbers of years of farming of the respondents

CHARACTERISTICS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Number of years in Conventional Farming		
1-10	23	24.47
11-20	29	30.85
21-30	22	23.40
31-40	16	17.02
41-50	3	3.19
51 and above	1	1.06
TOTAL	94	100
Number of years in Organic Farming		
Less than 1 year	2	33.33
1-2 years	2	33.33
3-4 years	2	33.33
TOTAL	6	100

Awareness of Farmer in Organic Farming

Table 4 shows the awareness of the respondents in organic farming. Result shows that majority (67%) of the respondents is aware of organic farming, and 33% of the respondents are not aware of organic farming.

There were only 24% respondents who are willing to accept organic farming and 76% of the respondents are not willing to accept it (Table 6). The result also implies that in terms of awareness majority of the respondents are aware about organic farming (Table 4), but when it comes to acceptability the farmers are hesitance in accepting organic farming in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet.



In addition Table 5 shows the source of information of the respondents about organic farming such as; t.v, radio, newspapers and books, seminars, relatives and also trainings provided by organic organization in the municipality of Tublay, Benguet.

The farmers are aware because they participate in seminars as shown in Table 4. Result shows that attending seminars gave the highest percentage (39.755%) that contributes to the awareness of farmer about organic farming. This means, seminars that are provided by the different organization of organic farmers made the farmer aware about organic farming. Through seminars they are also encouraged to convert their farm into organic. Because of seminars farmers also learned that what they are doing in their farm presently damages the environment and the health of the people surrounding them, and also their health as a farmer are at risk because of the different chemicals that they are using in their farm. These reasons strongly encourage some of the farmers to convert in organic farming in order to reduce the risk of the chemicals. But despite of these seminars, only 6 were convinced to convert into organic as shown in table 3.

A greater percentage (31.25%) the respondents mentioned that source of information was their relatives.

With the help of technology like radio and t.v the awareness of the farmer is also increased where in it tends to create curiosity in their minds that push them to learn more and to know more about organic farming.

Books and newspapers are also source of information that increases the level of awareness of farmers. Trainings provided by some organization of organic farmers in the municipality of Tublay, Benguet were their source of information on organic farming.



Despite of all these source of information on organic farming few (24) accept organic farming.

Table 4. Awareness of respondents in organic farming

AWARENESS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Aware	67	67
Not aware	33	33
TOTAL	100	100

Table 5. Source information of the respondents

SOURCE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
T.V.	2	2.985
Radio	24	35.821
Newspaper	4	5.970
Books	15	22.388
Seminars	63	94.030
Relatives	50	74.627
Trainings	2	2.985

*Multiple Response

Acceptability of Organic Farming

Table 6 shows that there were only twenty-four (24%) respondents including the 6 organic farmers are willing to accept organic farming while seventy-six (76%) of the respondents are not willing to accept it as their way of farming.

The reason behind this result is because of the long experience of the farmer in conventional farming, they prefer it rather than accepting a new method of farming like



organic farming. For them, accepting this kind of farming is too risky because they have to rebuild again their farm and it is also time consuming.

Result implies that majority of the respondents are not willing to accept organic farming because they prefer conventional farming.

Reasons for Adopting Organic Farming

Table 7 shows that from the 24 respondents including organic practitioners are willing to accept organic farming because of the following reasons such as; health of farmers (25.6%), health of consumers (26.5%), premium price (18.07%), less cost of farm inputs (26.5%), manageable (1.3%) and health of the soil (1.3%).

Table 6. Acceptability of respondents to go into organic farming

ACCEPTABILITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Accept	24	24
Do not accept	76	76
TOTAL	100	100

Farmers are willing to adopt organic farming because of health related reasons. Some of the farmers mentioned that they becoming ill and eventually they will become weak in later life because of the chemicals that they are using in their farm, as learned from organic farming seminars and trainings, they are more encourage to convert their farm into organic. Another reason as also learned from seminars is the health of the consumers, because of the long experienced of the farmer in chemical farming they notice the effect of



chemicals that they are using in their farm products, and they realized that they are not the only one affected but also the health of their consumers are at risk.

Farmers also observe that all farm inputs are increasing in price, but when organic farming is introduced to them, they realized that one of the benefits of organic farming is that it will lessen the cost of the farm inputs, where in the farmer will be using the resources available in their environment as their source of farm inputs, like grasses/ weeds to be composted and other resources.

In terms of farm product price, farmers are willing to accept organic farming because of the premium price where there is fix price for organic products compared to conventional farm products where there is unstable price.

Some of the farmers are also senior citizen and their body can no longer work compared when they are still young. Farmers were encouraged to accept organic farming because they believe organic farming is manageable and less farm works.

Because of these reasons, some of the farmers are willing to accept organic farming in order also to bring back the proper fertility of the soil and to be able to produce farm products that are safe and environmentally friendly.

Reasons for not Adopting Organic Farming

Table 8 also shows the reasons why respondents are not willing to accept organic farming such as; laborious (7.17%), no market (18.75%), low demand (7.17%), low yield production (3.57%), hard to manage (2.67%), no beginning income (1.78%) and too risky (1.78%).



Some of the farmers are not willing to accept organic farming because it is laborious. In converting their farm to organic farming is too laborious because they need to produce their own farm inputs, and also their age as one factor that affect their decisions. Some of the farmers are old and they can no longer work in their farm full time, and some of them are also afraid to convert because they prefer conventional farming.

In terms of productions, farmers consider organic farming that has low yield and low demand, because they do not see the progress of organic in their place. The numbers also of organic farmer in their place are not increasing. As they observe organic farming

Table 7. Reasons of the respondents for adopting organic farming

REASONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Health of farmers	22	26.5
Health of consumers	22	26.5
Premium Price	15	18.07
Less cost of Farm Inputs	22	26.5
Manageable	1	1.3
Soil Fertility	1	1.3

*Multiple Response

in their place, they found out that it is hard to manage, most especially the transition period where in the farm undergoes into a strict rehabilitation to bring back the proper nutrients of the soil and to remove the chemicals in the environment that will affect the plants.

In converting their farm, it needs time, effort and money to be able to start organic farm, but some of the farmers problem is they do not have enough money or beginning capital to convert their farm. This situation affects their decisions for not adopting because



if they convert their farm the source of their income will be affected and it can only leads them to borrow money from their relatives or loan in the bank in order to sustain their daily needs and the needs of their farm. They also consider that if they convert their farm, their products will not be disposed because there are no enough market outlets for organic product and also few selected buyers for the products.

Table 8. Reasons of the respondents for not adopting organic farming

REASONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Low demand	8	10.526
Low yield of production	4	5.263
Laborious	72	94.737
Hard to manage	3	3.947
No market	21	27.632
No beginning income	2	2.632
Too risky	2	2.632

*Multiple Response



SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The study on the assessment on farmer's acceptability of organic farming in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet was conducted from October 2012 to December 2013.

Specifically, the study aimed to determine if organic farming is acceptable to the place, to determine if the farmers are aware of organic farming, and to identify the reasons why farmers don't practice organic or they practice organic farming in the place.

Respondents of the study were 100 farmers from Daclan, Tublay, Benguet and respondents were chosen randomly.

The data were gathered through personal interview with the use of interview schedule and analyzed through frequency analysis.

There were six respondents who claimed that they were practicing organic farming while the rest of the respondents are still in conventional farming.

But of the one hundred respondents twenty-four are willing to accept organic farming, but out of this 24, six were already practicing organic farming, while seventy-six of the respondents are not willing to accept it as their method of farming. In terms of awareness majority of the respondents were aware of organic farming and only few who were not aware. There were sixty-seven respondents who are aware of organic farming, while there were only thirty-three respondents who claimed that they are not aware of organic farming. The result implies that majority of the respondents were aware but in terms of acceptability they are hesitant.



The source of information of the respondents about organic farming comes from t.v, radio, newspapers, books, seminars, relatives, and trainings provided by organic organization in the municipality of Tublay, Benguet.

There were six reasons why respondents are willing to accept organic farming, these are the health of the farmers, health of the consumers, premium price, less cost of farm inputs, manageable, and to bring back the proper fertility of the soil.

The reason of the respondents for not adopting organic farming were the following; laborious, no market, low demand, low yield production, hard to manage and no beginning income/ capital and too risky.

Conclusions

From the following results, the following conclusions were derived;

1. Farmers prefer conventional farming rather than organic farming in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet;
2. Majority of the respondents of the study were aware of organic farming but in terms of acceptability few are willing to accept;
3. Their decisions in accepting organic farming are influenced by their long experienced in farming as conventional farmers and other factor like low yield, no market and laborious; and,
4. Factors that affect decisions of farmers in accepting organic farming are their observation on the activities of organic practitioners in their place. The trainings and seminars conducted were not convincing for them to accept organic.



Recommendations

Based on the above conclusions, the following are recommended:

1. The organization of organic farmers should conduct more seminars and trainings in the municipality of Tublay, Benguet, however, the seminars should present facts or figures about the good effect of organic to the health of farmers and consumers and other advantages of organic farming. The organization should also assist the farmers in their farm in order for them to be encouraged to convert in organic;

2. The LGU through agriculture office should exert more efforts in convincing the other farmer to accept organic farming by providing assistance/support like providing seeds and organic fertilizers for them to start organic farming;

3. The municipal government should allot funds for the dissemination of information about organic farming in order for the farmers to fully understand what organic farming is;

4. The help of other organization like Benguet State University to disseminate information about organic farming and also provide extra trainings for the farmers in order to have progress in organic farming in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet; and,

5. Assistance/market linkage of organic farmers by the DA through the AMAD.



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