

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Adviser: Samuel L. Duyan, BSc.

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the farmers' acceptability on organic farming in Kapangan, Benguet. The study aimed to determine if the farmers are aware about organic farming; if there are farmers adopting organic farming; the level of acceptability and the reasons of adopting and not adopting organic farming.

A total of 100 respondents were classified according to their age, gender, civil status and type of farming engaged. Most of the respondents are aware about organic farming.

According to the respondents, the level of acceptability on organic farming is acceptable but few adopting organic farming for the reason that it is beneficial to health and has a good effect to the environment. The kinds of organic vegetables that the respondents sell are the following; beans, cabbage, garden pea, bell pepper, chayote, peachy, mustard, potato, water cress, gabi and Korean radish. They sell in their neighbors' store with in the area and market.



The respondents' reasons for adopting organic farming are the following; beneficial to health, lesser capital, needed higher market price, better quality and good effect to the environment.

The reasons of the respondents for not adopting organic farming classified as internal reasons such as poor quality of crops produced, inadequate knowledge, not convenient to apply, laborious and low income. External reasons such as no support from the government in case farming failed, limited researches to help make organic farming successful, lack of trainings and seminars about organic farming, no established market outlet for organic vegetables and low yield.

Majority of the respondents are interested in adopting organic farming provided that the government should support them and provide all their needs especially trainings and seminars in their place in order for them to understand more what organic farming is. The concerned agencies and local government should also provide low interest credit loans, market outlet for organic produced so that they will not be discouraged in going into organic farming.



INTRODUCTION

Rationale

An organic farming is not one that uses certain methods and substances and avoids other. It is farm that structure is formed in imitation of the natural system that has the integrity, the independence and the beginning dependence of an organism.

Organic farming is an amalgam of different ideas rooted mainly in the German-speaking and English-speaking words. These ideas arose at the end of the 19th century, especially the knowledge of biologically oriented Agriculture Science, the vision of return movements and an interest in farming system of the Far East (Wendell, 2010).

New studies from US and Europe confirm that organic farming can help mitigate global warming. Some major reasons on how organic agriculture can help battle change are organic farming does not pollute air, water and land because it does not utilize chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Its method uses manure and cover crops like legumes to enrich the soil which helps sequester CO₂ from atmosphere. It uses less energy also than conventional farming.

Moreover, technology use in organic agriculture enhances soil fertility, in turn, encourage crops to develop deeper route which increases the amount of organic matter in the soil locking up carbon underground and keeping it out of the atmosphere. Organic farming combats global warming by capturing dioxide in the atmosphere and incorporating it into the soil (Clarapols, 2008).

Most of the farmers in Kapangan are relying on commercial fertilizer, pesticides and other forms of chemicals in order to enhance the quality and quantity of their farm



products. The farmers focusing on the profit that they can generate from their farm have not considered the effects of these inorganic fertilizers on their health, on the health of their family and their customers and to the environment.

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 Kapangan are aware of organic farming and whether they are informed about such method of cultivating the soil.

Importance of the Study

The result would serve as useful information to 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 Cordillera Administrative Region. Furthermore, it would also serve as basis for organic advocates other government agencies and non-government organization working on the promotion of organic farming.

Statement of the Problem

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

1. Are the farmers aware about organic farming?
2. What is the level of acceptability of farmers towards organic farming?
3. Are there farmers adopting organic farming in the place?
4. What are the reasons of adopting or not adopting organic farming?
5. Are the farmers interested in adopting organic farming?



Objective of the Study

This study aims to:

1. to determine if the farmers are aware about organic farming;
2. to determine the level of acceptability of farmers towards organic farming;
3. to determine if there are farmers adopting organic farming in the place;
4. to identify the reasons of adopting or not adopting organic farming; and
5. to determine if the farmers are interested in adopting organic farming.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The study was conducted in selected barangays of Kapangan, Benguet such as Labueg, Datacan, Pongayan. The study focused on the farmers' awareness, acceptability and interest towards organic farming.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Creation of the Municipality of Kapangan

The Municipality of Kapangan existed as an organized town as early as the Spanish era regime. The legal existence of the municipality was by virtue of act no.48 passed and approved on November 22, 1900 during the American civil government. A later republic act no.4695 was passed on June 18, 1986; in short, called the division law separated the province of Benguet from its mother province “The Old Mountain Province”. The province of Benguet, in effect, maintained her thirteen (13) municipalities among them, the municipality of Kapangan.

Kitma (2009) says that in organic farming feed the soil and not the plant directly. Plants are not designed to get their nutrients by being forced fed. Plants, in order to grow healthy, need fertile soil. Soil fertility can be maintained by the application of quality compost, proper application of animal and green manure, proper crop rotation as well as cultivation process. He added also that there is no such thing as pest if we encourage a well balanced micro-ecology, spraying pesticide to control plant pest does not solve the problem of pest. For him, key to pest management is through building a well balanced micro-ecology that include soil, plant, animals and micro-organism, healthy soils grows healthy plants and healthy plants do not get easily by pests and diseases.

Furthermore, plant strong local season crops. Avoid hybrid and other seeds that have been grown with pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Generally weak in vigor, easily attacked by pest and diseases. Kitma mentioned that in organic farming you need to grow different plants together which means mono-culture or growing of one crop continuously



in a wide scale area is not good. It will deplete soils and make crops vulnerable to pest and diseases.

History of Organic Farming

The organic movement began in the 1930s and 1940s as reaction to agriculture's growing reliance on synthetic fertilizers had been created during the 18th century, initially with superphosphates and then ammonia derived fertilizers mass produced using the process developed during World War II. These early fertilizers were cheap, powerful, and easy to transport in bulk. The 1940s has been referred to as the pesticide era. Sir Albert Howard is widely considered to be the father of organic farming, Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher made important strides in the earliest organic theory with his biodynamic agricultural. More work was done by J.I. Rodale in the United States, Lady Eve Balfour in the United Kingdom, and many across the world.

As a percentage of total agricultural output, organic farming has remained tiny since the beginning. As environmental awareness and concern increased, the organically supply driven movement became demand-driven. Standardized certification brought premium prices, and in some cases government subsidies attracted many farmers into converting. In the developing world, many farmers farm according to traditional methods but are not certified. In other cases, farmers in the developing world have converted out of necessity. As a proportion of total global agricultural output, organic output remains small; it has been growing in many countries, notably in Europe.



Health Risk of Organic Farming

Organic farms use few pesticides, although they allow using some natural ones. The main three are BT, pyrethrum and rotenone. However, surveys have found that fewer than 10% of organic farmers use these pesticides regularly; one survey found that only 5.3% of vegetable growers in California use rotenone while 1.7% uses pyrethrum (Lotter, 2003). Nevertheless, rotenone has been linked to Parkinson's in rats and considered toxic to humans (Lotter *et al.*, 2003).

On other hand, conventional farming uses large quantities of pesticides through techniques such as crop posting. Studies have shown it that people who work with pesticides have an increased risk of developing Parkinson's disease. The pesticides examined in this two long term studies, Paraquat and Dieldrin, are not allowed on organic farm. The herbicide paraquat and fungicide manned together, but not alone, have been shown to cause brain damage in mice.

Economics of Organic Farming

A subfield of agricultural economics encompasses the entire process and effects of organic farming in terms of human society, including social costs, opportunity costs, unintended consequences, information assign entries, and economies of scale. Although the scope of economies is broad, agricultural economies tends to focus on maximizing yields and efficiency at the farm level. Economies take an anthropocentric approach to the value of the natural world; biodiversity, for example, is considered beneficial only to the extent that it is valued by people and increase profit. Some entities such as the European Union subsidize Organic Farming, in large part because this countries want to account for



the externalities of reduced water use, reduced water contamination, reduced soil erosion, reduced carbon emissions, increased biodiversity, and assorted other benefits that result from organic farming.

Productivity and Profitability

A 2006 study that converted organic farms have lower pre-harvest yields than their conventional counterparts in developed countries (92%) and that organic farms higher yields than their low-intensity counterparts in developing countries (132%). The researcher attributes this to a relative lack of expensive fertilizers and pesticides in the developing world compared to the intensive, subsidy-driven farming of the developed world. Nonetheless, the researcher purposely avoids making the claim that organic methods routinely outperform green-revolution (conventional) methods. This study incorporated a 1990 review of 205 crop comparisons which found that organic crops had 91% of conventional yields. A major US survey published in 2001, analyzed results from 150 growing seasons for various crops and concluded that organic yields were 95-100% of conventional yields.

Organic Production

Adonis (2005), stated that organic farming refers to agricultural production systems that take into account the following factors; factors minimum reliance of artificial inputs; feeding the soil and not the plant; food safety practices, certification of entire production or distribution and not the end product; non-use of artificial growth enhancers (in livestock)



and non-use of genetically modified organism Kitma (2001). The demand for organic product has increased over recent years beyond the present domestic product capacity.

Chaves (2006), said that it is high time that we all realize both the beauty and the value of organic farming and organic agriculture in general. Conscientious citizens and farmers should realize that organic practitioners can be as productive as conventional ones, and organic farming leaves the soil healthier in the long run. This is the true value of organic farming, the production of crops that are ecologically sound and at the same time the protection of cure environment for the feature generations.

Abalos (2005), said that the key to make local vegetable competitive is the willingness of farmers to adopt foreign technology applicable to local agriculture and to accept a steady pricing system independent of the supply and demand cycle. He said that the market of big fast-food chains in metro Manila look very promising since them themselves could at least to quality at locally produced vegetables. They are even willing to enter marketing deals with local farmers, provided they will be ensured of a steady supply of vegetables. He cited the big demand for potatoes, bell paper, lettuce and broccoli. He further said the Benguet vegetables tasted better and has earned a reputation that could lead to wider market which should not be ignore by the local farmers. He said that organic farming produced disease-free vegetables and reduced farming cost.

Effects of Organic Fertilizer to the Soil

Organic matter is a complex and dynamic soil component that exerts a major influence on soil behavior, properties and functional in the ecosystem. Organic matter encourages soil granulation and stability especially by the non-humid substance produced



during decomposition. The humid help reduce the plasticity, collision and stickiness of clay soils, making the soil easier to manipulate soil water rotation is also improved, since organic matter increases both infiltration note and water holding capacity due to the aggregation of soils. Organic matter also hold nutrient caution such as potassium, calcium, magnesium and other in easily exchangeable from wherein they can be used by plants but are not too readily reached out of the soil profile by peculating water (Brady and Weil, 2002).

Taguid (2000), showed that the final bulk and water holding capacity of the soil was significantly affected by the different notes of organic fertilizers. Application of 48 to 12 tons/ha of organic fertilizers decreased bulk density of the from the original pot 99g cm⁻³ to range of 0.87 to 95g cm³ while the water holding capacity as rate of application increase from 32% to 50% likewise, Lumagto (2004) reported that application of varying ratio of formulated organic fertilizer (FOF) significantly decreased the bulk density of the garden soil into a desirable level. The PH, CM, M, P and K were also increased to a suitable level for tomato production under controlled conditions pure (FOF) had the lowest final bulk density and highest find PH, CM, M, P and K.

Effect of Organic Fertilizers on Crops

Organic Fertilizers should be applied as closes as possible to the roots without hindrance to germinator or root growth. It should be applied when the nutrients are most needed usually at early vegetable stage of flowering. On fruiting time, for rainfall areas during dry season, fertilizer is applied at planting when there is still moisture in the soil. For area with equal distribution of rainfall required fertilizer dosage can be applied at



planting and other half is between rows and with shallow incorporation. Organic matter supplies nutrients by the growing plants as well as hormone and antibiotic. These nutrients are released in harmony with the seeds or plant with the seeds or plant with the environmental conditions favor a rapid release of nutrients from organic matter (Donahue 1972).

Marcelino (1995) cited that organic fertilizer supplies some amount of the nutrients requirements of the crop and promote favorable soil properties such as granulation, efficient aeration, easy root penetration and more improved water holding capacity of the soil. As well, Bal-iwang (1994) affirmed that plants applied with chicken manure of days from transplanting to tilling, tiller number and grain yield. Furthermore, chicken manure significantly with that of coffee null and sunflower leaves.

Eslay (1996) found out that chicken manure enhance the growth of potato plants. He further explained that crops applied with chicken dung as a basal had the heaviest marketable tubers and total weight compared with other fertilizer. In addition, he affirmed that the superiority of chicken dung maybe attributed to the more nutrients contents, readily available nutrients and combination of both. Crops fertilized with organic matter were reported by Abadilla (1982) to have greater resistant to pest and diseases. Soils high in organic matter allow little or no soil borne diseases because of the oxygen ethylene cycle in the soil. It was mentioned that the sap of plants fertilized with organic matter, confirmed immunity to plant pest and diseases, it also improve the quality crops a characteristics that has very much definite commercial value.



Advantages of Organic Farming

Environmentally friendly in conventional farming, farmers pour tons of phosphates and nitrogenous fertilizers on their crops every year. These chemicals are great for crop production but when it rains these chemicals can make their way into nearby bodies of water through runoff or absorption. These chemicals provide massive amounts of nutrients into the waters which fuels the growth of algae blooms. These blooms require large amounts of dissolved oxygen leaving less for the fish and other organisms in the water. Many times the large algae blooms are accompanied by dead fish on the shorelines. Organic farming eliminates the use of fertilizers and phosphates thus contributing to the health of our waterways.

Also, agrichemical farming is extremely energy dependent. So much energy and fuel goes into the extraction, manufacturing and processing of the chemicals that agrichemical farming is so reliant on. In addition, it requires large amounts of fuel to apply these chemicals to the crops on conventional farm. Organic farming is a much more energy friendly alternative.

Pesticide-free Organic farms produce food without health harming pesticides, insecticides and fungicides. I'm not sure of the effects that these chemicals have on the body but I can imagine that they aren't beneficial.

Drought resistance Chemical fertilizer contains soluble salts. As soon as water becomes limited, the soluble nutrient salts in the cells of chemically fed plants are unable to osmotically draw sufficient water to maintain safe dilution. They soon reach toxic concentrations, and the plant stops growing and eventually die.



Disadvantages of Organic Farming

Productivity Organic farms cannot produce nearly as much crop as an industrialized farm could. With all the regulations and the techniques that have to be carefully applied it is often difficult for an organic farm to produce enough food to feed massive amounts of people.

Time working on an organic farm takes great amounts of time and energy. In order to meet organic requirements very detailed methods and techniques must be used in order to officially be called an organic farm. If these requirements are not met the organic farm could lose its certification and not be able to gain it back in up to three years. With the heavy machinery and fast acting chemicals on industrial farms, massive amounts of food can be produced in a very short amount of time.

Skill farming organic requires tremendous amounts of skill. They are not allowed to use the quick chemical fixes that industrial farmers are allowed to use. Everything has to be done by hand without synthetic aid. This requires immense amounts of knowledge and experience. Often times it can be hard to find someone who is experienced in organic farming and it can be strenuous to try and meet all of the organic certification requirements.



METHODOLOGY

Locale and Time of the Study

The study was conducted in the selected barangays of Kapangan, Benguet which includes Labueg, Datacan and Pongayan. It was conducted from December 2012 to January 2013.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study involved 100 farmers in selected barangays of Kapangan, Benguet.

Research Instrument

A survey questionnaire was used to gather the relevant data and information from the target respondents. After the survey, a follow up interview was undertaken to clarify responses in the survey questionnaire and field visit in the farms was done to gather additional information.

Data Gathered

The data gathered were the level of acceptability, awareness of farmers, and farmer's interest on organic farming.

Data Analysis

The data gathered was tabulated and analyzed using simple statistical tools such as frequency counts, percentage and ranking.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 shows the demographic profile of the respondents according to age, gender, civil status, educational attainment, type of farming engaged and number of years in farming.

Age. Most of the farmers (86%) play within the age range of 31-40, 41-50 and 51-60 with 29%, 27% and 30% respectively. However, eight percent of the farmers were within 21-30 years and six percent of them are within 61-70 years. This result may indicate the farmers having still the ability to do the activities in the farm.

Gender. Majority of the respondents (75%) were male and than the females only 25%. As expected in farming male is more dominant than the female since they are the head of the family.

Civil status. Most of the farmers (83%) were married and only few (17%) were single. The result shows that married farmers are more interested in farming than single farmers.

Educational attainment. Majority of the farmers (56%) finished elementary, 35% graduated from high school, 8% took vocational and 1% is a college graduate. The table shows that all the farmers have attained a formal education.

Type of farming. Table 1 also shows that most of the farmers (96%) were into conventional farming and only 4% were into organic farming. This may implies that though farmers are being aware about organic farming, they do not take the initiative to try which may be due to some reasons.



Table 1. Demographic profile of the respondents

PROFILE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age (in years)		
20-30	8	8
31-40	29	29
41-50	27	27
51-60	30	30
61-70	6	6
TOTAL	100	100
Gender		
Male	75	75
Female	25	25
TOTAL	100	100
Civil Status		
Single	17	17
Married	83	83
TOTAL	100	100
Educational attainment		
Elementary	56	56
High School	35	35
College	1	1
Vocational	8	8
TOTAL	100	100



Table 1. Continued...

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Type of farming	4	4
Organic Farming		
Conventional Farming	96	96
TOTAL	100	100
No. of years in farming		
a. Conventional Farming		
1-5	11	11.46
6-10	26	27.08
11-15	20	20.83
16-20	22	22.92
21-25	10	10.42
26-30	5	5.21
31-35	1	1.4
36-40	1	1.4
SUB-TOTAL	96	100
b. Organic Farming		
1-5	4	100
SUB-TOTAL	4	100
TOTAL	100	100



No. of years in farming. As shown in Table 1 the most number of years that the farmers engaged in conventional farming is between 6-25 years with a percentage of 78% and 31-40 years is the lowest with 2%.

Awareness of Farmers on Organic Farming

Table 2 presents the awareness of farmers on organic farming which include information on whether the farmers have heard about organic farming and from what particular source, whether they try producing organic vegetables and what specific vegetables, their reasons for not trying organic farming, the different components of organic farming and their market for their organic produce.

Awareness on organic farming and source of information. Table 2 shows that most of the farmers (87%) heard about organic farming. The most sources of their information is in radio with 73%, 23% from neighbors, 12% from relatives, 8% from the Department of Agriculture (DA) technicians, 6% from newspaper, 5% from farmers cooperative or association and the lowest is 4% from pamphlets, brochures, posters about organic farming. According to the respondents they heard organic farming in radio particularly from the program of DZWT anchored by Dr. Kudan. Thirteen percent farmers did not hear about organic farming because they have no radio, however according to them there are people from the local government unit of Kapangan who came to introduce seedlings and commercial fertilizer and some farming practices like crop rotation.

Did the farmers try producing organic vegetables. Table 2 also shows that out of the 87% who have heard about organic farming 18.39% have tried producing organic vegetables. The crops that the farmers try to plant are the following beans (43.75%),



chayote (37.5%), cabbage (12.5), garden pea (12.5), bell pepper (6.25%), and they try also pechay (43.75%), mustard (31.25%), potato (6.26), watercress (6.25%), gabi (6.25%), and Korean radish (6.25%). However, most (81.61%) of those who have heard about organic farming did not try producing organic vegetable.

Reason for not producing organic vegetable. Table 2 further shows that 71% claimed that there is no available information about organic farming, 70% cited that nobody is practicing organic farming in the place, 67% stated nobody informed them about organic farming. Furthermore the respondents said that there is no group of people involved in organic farming who could come and introduce organic farming to them.

Component of organic farming technologies adoted. Table 2 also present that 75% are practicing composting, 12.5% green manuring, and 12.5% crop rotation. In composting they usually use weeds, fruit peelings and dry leaves like sunflower and alnus leaves. They also use sunflower leaves as pesticides; they put in a container and soaked the sunflower leaves for at least 2-3 weeks. In crop rotation they usually plant four kinds of crops in one year.

Market outlet for the organic vegetables. Table 2 shows that 81.25% sell their organic vegetables to their neighbors, 75% to the store with in the area, 6.25% delivers to the market and 43.75% utilize their produced for their own consumption. Respondents claimed that they have no choice in selling to their neighbors in low price since there is no available market to dispose their organic vegetables with a higher price. Some also said that their half yield is for their consumption and the half is for sale.



Table 2. Awareness of farmers on organic farming

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Have you heard about organic farming?		
Heard	87	87
Not heard	13	13
TOTAL	100	100
Sources of information about organic farming		
Department of Agriculture technicians	8	8
Radio	73	73
Newspaper	6	6
Neighbors	23	23
Pamphlets, brochures, posters about organic farming	4	4
Farmers cooperatives or association	5	5
Relatives	12	12
Did you try producing organic vegetables?		
Try	16	18.39
Not try	71	81.61
TOTAL	87	100
If you try, what crop?		
Beans	7	43.75
Cabbage	2	12.5
Garden pea	2	12.5
Bell pepper	1	6.25
Chayote	6	37.5
Pechay	7	43.75
Mustard	5	31.25
Potato	1	6.25
Water cress	1	6.25
Gabi	1	6.25



Table 2 Continued...

Korean radish	1	6.25
*Multiple Response		
Component of organic farming technologies adopted		
Crop rotation	2	12.5
Green manuring	2	12.5
Composting	12	75
TOTAL	16	100
Market outlet for the organic vegetables		
Neighbors	13	81.25
Stores within the area	12	75
Market	1	6.25
For consumption	7	43.75
*Multiple Response		
Reasons for not producing organic vegetables		
Nobody informed me about organic farming.	67	94.44
There is no available information about organic farming.	71	100
Unaware of the organic in the place	70	98.59
*Multiple Response		



Acceptability on Organic Farming in the Area

Table 3 presents the acceptability of organic farming and the factors effecting farmers in adopting organic farming and factors or reasons affecting farmers from going into organic farming.

Acceptability of organic farming. Table 3 shows that 54% farmers accept organic farming in the place. And given the level of acceptability, they rated organic farming as acceptable. The farmers most reasons are beneficial to health (85.18%), lesser capital needed (55.55%), higher price (48.14%), better quality (37.03%) and it has good effect to the environment (29.62%). According to the respondents they accept organic farming given that they will be provided with the needed but they need support like starting capital, seminars and trainings, organic grower that will lead them, market outlet to sell their products, high quality of equipment for better cropping.

Factors affecting famers in adopting organic farming. The factors that affect the farmers in adopting organic farming are the following; beneficial to health (85.18%), lesser capital needed (55.55%), higher price (48.14%), better quality (3.03%) and it has good effect to the environment. Moreover according also to the respondents organic vegetables have higher nutrition content compared to conventionally grown vegetables.



Table 3. Level of acceptability on organic farming in the area

PARTICULARS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Acceptability of organic farming		
Acceptable	54	54
Not acceptable	46	46
TOTAL	100	100
Level of acceptability on organic farming.		
5-strongly acceptable	–	–
4-acceptable	54	100
3-uncertain	–	–
2-not acceptable	–	–
1-strongly not acceptable	–	–
TOTAL	54	100
Factors or reasons for accepting organic farming		
Beneficial to health	46	85.81
Lesser capital needed	30	55.55
Higher price	26	48.14
Better quality	20	37.03
It has good effects on the environment	16	29.62
*Multiple Response		



Internal Factors Affecting Farmers for not Accepting Organic Farming.

As found earlier 46% of the respondents said that organic farming is not acceptable. Their reasons for not accepting are influenced by internal and external factor presented in Table 4.

Internal factors. Table 4 shows the internal factors or reasons that affect the farmers for not accepting organic farming like the following poor quality of crops produced 100%, inadequate knowledge 100% , not convenient to apply 100%, laborious 82.35%, low income 50%, no time to attend trainings and seminars 26.47%, no money to pay for certification standards 17.65% and expert in conventional farming 14.71%. Respondents believed that one factor is due to the poor quality of produced since it is easily attacked by pest causing damages to the organic vegetables and as compare to the conventionally grown vegetables which have a good quality as effect of using pesticides and others. In addition they also have limited or inadequate knowledge.



External factors. Table 4 shows the different external reasons like the limitation of researches to help make organic farming successful (100%), no established markets for organic products (88.23%), no support from the local government in case the farm failed (100%), no sustained technical supports of concerned agencies (73.53%), no seminars and trainings about organic farming (32.35%), it takes a long time to revive the fertility of the soil (29.41%), certification standards are very costly (26.47%), no stable market (23.53%) and low yield (5.88%).

Internal and external factors that affect farmers in discontinuing organic farming. Table 4 shows the different internal and external reasons of farmers who discontinued organic farming. The following internal reasons are poor quality of crops produced (58.33%), low income (41.67%) and the external reasons are there is no established market for organic product (75%) and low yield (25%).



Table 4. Internal and external factors for not accepting or discontinuing organic farming

PARTICULARS	THOSE WHO DID* NOT TRY		THOSE WHO TRIED	
	F	%	F	%
Internal factors for not accepting organic farming				
Poor quality of crops produced	34	100	7	58.33
Inadequate knowledge	34	100	–	–
Not convenient to apply	34	100	–	–
Laborious	28	82.35	–	–
Low income	23	50	5	41.67
No time to attend trainings and seminars	9	26.47	–	–
No money to pay for certification standards	6	17.65	–	–
Expert on conventional farming	5	14.71	–	–
TOTAL			12	100
External factors for not accepting organic farming				
No support from the government in case their farm field	34	100	–	–
There are limited researches to help make organic farming successful	34	100	–	–
There are no established market for organic products	30	88.23	9	75
There are no sustained technical supports of concerned agencies	25	73.53	–	–
Certification standards are very costly	9	26.47	–	–
It takes a long time to revive the fertility of the soil	10	29.41	–	–
No stable markets	8	23.53	–	–
Low yield	2	5.88	3	25
TOTAL			12	100

*Multiple response



Farmers Interest Towards Organic Farming

Table 5 presents the willingness of farmers in going to organic farming with the given information and support, the organic farming technologies they would like to practice and the specific support they need in order to go into organic farming.

Willingness to continue or to go into organic farming. Majority of the respondents (54%) are willing to continue or to go into organic farming given that they will be provided with the needed information and support. However 46% of the respondents are not willing to go organic farming whether provided with the needed support. The result implied the effect of relevant support in influencing the farmers to engaged in organic farming.

Organic farming technologies. The respondents who are willing to engaged in organic farming would like to practice the different farming technologies particularly composting and green manuring with 81.48% and 51.85% respectively which could due to the simplicity of these technologies. Moreover other farmers are interested in crop rotation with 27.78%, biological pest control with 18.52%, use of indigenous knowledge with 16.67%, liquid fertilizers, with 7.41% and traditional varieties with 3.70%.



Table 5. Farmers' interest towards organic farming

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Willingness to continue or to go into organic farming		
Willing	54	54
Not willing	46	46
TOTAL	100	100
Organic farming technologies		
Crop rotation	15	27.78
Green manuring	28	51.85
Liquid fertilizers	4	7.14
Composting	44	81.84
Biological pest control	10	18.52
Use of indigenous knowledge	9	16.67
Traditional varieties	2	3.70
*Multiple Response		
Types of support needed		
Technical support	11	20.37
Financial support	44	81.48
Marketing support	17	31.48
*Multiple Response		



Types of support needed. As shown in Table 5 the respondents who are willing to practice organic farming need several supports that would help them in their farming activities. The data indicate that most of the farmers (81.48%) need financial support such as capital and loan, marketing support (31.48%) like market outlet and technical support (20.37%) such as seminars and trainings. In addition, the farmers cited the importance of marketing outlet for their produce whenever they would be engaged in organic farming.



SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This study on the assessment on the acceptability of Organic Farming in Kapangan, Benguet was conducted from December 2012 to January 2013 in the selected barangays of Kapangan, Benguet. It aimed to determine if the farmers are aware about farming; to determine the level of acceptability of farmers towards organic farming; to determine if there are farmers adopting organic farming in the place; to identify the reasons of adopting or not adopting organic farming and to determined if the farmers are interested in adopting organic farming. The farmer's main source of their income is farming. Most farmers are engaged in conventional farming (96%) which uses pesticides and commercial fertilizers while only (4%) were engaged in organic farming.

Majority of farmers in Kapangan are aware of organic farming. They heard from television and radio. But they don't apply because there is no available information and materials to use in organic farming; and nobody is practicing organic farming. There are only few only who apply organic farming. They try to produce beans, chayote, cabbage, garden pea, bell pepper, peachy, mustard, potato, watercress, gabi and Korean radish, and they sell it to their neighbors and stores within the area, however some use it for their own consumption.

The level of acceptability of farmers towards organic farming is acceptable but due to the lack of marketing, financial and technical support they don't apply or adopt and because of the internal and external reasons like there are limited researches to help them make organic farming successful and there are no establish market for organic products.



Few farmers adopt or practice organic farming for the reason that it is beneficial to health, lesser capital needed, higher price and better quality.

The farmers are interested and willing to continue or to go in organic farming with the organic farming technologies practices that they will engaged and to provide them marketing, financial and technical support.

Conclusions

Base on the findings of the study the following conclusion were formulated:

1. Majority of the farmers in Kapangan, Benguet are aware of organic farming;
2. Most farmers in Kapangan do not adopt organic farming because of limited information, lack of knowledge, lack of market outlet, lack of financial, lack of government support; and
3. Organic farming is acceptable to the majority of farmers in Kapangan and they are willing to go into organic farming as long as technical, financial, material inputs and marketing support would be provided to them. Since almost all of those who not adopting organic farming reasons for not adopting are due to lack of market outlet and lack of information.

Recommendations

Since farmers in Kapangan are willing to go into organic farming and there are few who were already practicing it, government and other concerned agencies must provide all the needed support and assistance especially seminars and trainings respectively to their place in order for them to understand more what organic farming is. Affordable credit



should also be provided and more market outlet for organic products should be established so that farmers would not be discouraged to go into organic farming. The farmers have to consider also their social responsibility as producers of food. They have to be more responsible in producing safe and clean vegetables to the consumers and the protection of environment by going into organic farming and not to be solely focusing in their profit.



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