BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted from December 2012 to January 2013. A total of 75 respondents from the three selected barangays in Buguias, Benguet. Personal interview with the use of survey questions is done to verify and satisfy the information needed.

All of the respondents were aware of organic farming. The sources of information about organic farming were radio, televisions, pamphlets, brochures, newspapers and to their respective relatives and neighbors.

As to the reason of some farmers in not adopting of organic farming is that the main external factors are: no support from the government, lack of sustainability of technical support; internal factors include low yield, poor quality of crops and foremost they are expert on conventional farming.

Majority of the farmers in Buguias are willing to adopt or accept organic farming if all the needed supports are provided.

INTRODUCTION

Rationale

Organic farming from the very modest beginnings in the first half of the last century has grown dramatically in importance and influence worldwide. A few statistics tell part of the history from the most negligible levels until the 1980s, the number of organic farms worldwide has grown to an estimate of 62,300 farms in 2004 as mentioned by the IFOAM (2006).

But this numbers capture only a small part of what organic farming has became. Even more impressive is the heightened stature among researchers, educators, and agricultural policy makers, a change that began in earnest only by the late 1970s. An important component of the advancement of organic farming has been its global spread. Five countries were represented when IFOAM was organized in 1972, by the late 1990s it had members from over 100 countries.

Organic farming relationship to science is deeply imbedded in the psychological and cultural roots as a reaction against the industrialization of agriculture early and mid-20th (Newton, 2004).

Sustainable organic farming practices can be implemented by all farmers, method such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), biological control, biofumigation, crop rotation, cover cropping, compost, manures and compost teas (a solution made by soaking compost in water) have been effective. Organic agriculture improves the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the soil. Research in these areas is invaluable

for both organic and conventional growers; especially soil science is relatively a new field of study (JOREGE, n.d.).

Buguias is a very important municipality of Benguet because of its significant contribution to vegetable production that are channeled to La Trinidad Trading Post, Baguio City market and Metro Manila. Buguias is a major producer of potato, carrots and cabbage. All these crops are grown through conventional farming. Through conventional farming crop production can be produced by volume. However, every increase in production is equal to increment in environmental pollution. Furthermore, more consumers are exposed to health hazard due to the pesticide residues they ingest from the crops they consume.

There are only a few farmers in Buguias, Benguet who adopted organic farming and mostly for home consumption because the production is not that much. This study therefore was conducted to assess the acceptability of organic farming among farmers in Buguias as well as their willingness to adopt organic farming. As mentioned, organic farming help alleviate problems associated with food safety, environmental quality and impact market concentration.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Organic Farming Defined

Organic farming is the form of agriculture that relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green manure, compost and biological pest control. Organic farming uses fertilizers and pesticides but excludes or strictly limits the use of manufactured (synthetic) fertilizers, pesticides (which include herbicides, insecticides and fungicides), plant growth regulators such as hormones, livestock antibiotics, food additives, genetically modified organisms, human sewage sludge, and nano materials.

Organic agricultural methods are internationally regulated and legally enforced by many nations, based in large part on the standards set by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), an international umbrella organization for organic farming organizations established in 1972. IFOAM defines the overarching goal of organic farming as:

"Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved..."

Since 1990, the market for organic products has grown from next to nothing statistically, reaching $55 billion in 2009 according to Organic Monitor (www.organicmonitor.com). This demand has driven a similar increase in organically managed farmland which has grown over the past decade at a compounding rate of 8.9%

per annum. Approximately 37,000,000 hectares (91,000,000 acres) worldwide are now farmed organically, representing approximately 0.9 percent of total world farmland in 2009 (Kilcher and Willer, 2011).

METHODOLOGY

Locale and Time of the Study

Buguias is 41.78 km away from Baguio City. Buguias is composed of fourteen barangays. These areAbatan, Amgaleyguey, Amlimay, Baculongan Norte, Bangao, Buyacaoan, Calamagan, Catlubong, Natubleng, Poblacion Central, Baculongan Sur, Loo, Lengaoan, and Sebang.

The research was conducted at the Municipality of Buguias, Benguet from December 2012 to January 2013. The study site is shown in Figure 1.

Respondents of the Study

The respondents of the study were 75 farmers distributed from the three selected barangays of the Municipality of Buguias namely Abatan, Loo and Amlimay. These three barangays were selected because it is only in these barangays that the researcher have relatives who accommodated her during the data gathering.

Data Gathering Procedure

The data of the study were gathered with the use of survey questionnaires containing the necessary questions to the objective of the study through personal interview.

Data Gathered

The data gathered includes the demographic profile, awareness of farmers on organic farming and their level of knowledge, level of acceptability on organic farming and willingness to adopt organic farming and factors affecting reasons of farmers' adoption of organic farming.

Data Analysis

The data gathered were evaluated and interpreted by the researcher according to the objectives of the study. Frequency and percentage were the statistical tools used in the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of the respondents. It represents their age, gender, civil status, educational attainment, sources of income, type of farming and number of years engaged in farming.

Age. The respondents ages ranged from below 35 years old to 75 years old. There were 16% who belonged to ages 35 and below, 25% were 36-44 years old while 36% aged 45-52 years old. The oldest among the respondents were 53-70 years old with 23%.

Gender. Majority of the respondents are male with 76% and only 24% are female.

Civil status. Majority of the respondents (83%) are married while 16% are single and only about one percent is widowed.

Educational attainment. The respondents vary in their educational attainment. There are 62.67% of the respondents who reached the high school level, 20% were elementary, and 17.33% were college. This indicates that most of the farmers interviewed have reached elementary and secondary level and very few reached the college level.

Source of income. As to the source of income, results show that farming is the common source of income of the respondents with 97% and there were 3% whose income is from their pensions.

Type of farming. Majority of the respondents were practicing conventional farming 91%, and 9% organic farming. The data implies that conventional farming is more dominant in the municipality of Buguias.

Number of years engaged in farming. The respondents vary according to the number of years engaged in farming. Most of the respondents had been farming for 20 to 40 years and two of them had been farming for 41 – 50 years. This implies that some of the respondents have already been farming for a long time.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The study was conducted last December, 2012 to January 2013 in the three selected barangays of the municipality of Buguias. It was conducted for the following objectives: 1) to determine if organic farming is acceptable in the place; 2) to determine the farmers awareness on organic farming in that place; and 3) to identify the reasons of farmers for practicing or not practicing organic farming in that area.

Seventy five respondents were interviewed through guide questions. As the result of the data gathered all are aware of the organic farming but very few are adopting organic farming. The sources of information about organic farming were television and radio broadcast, newspapers, pamphlets, brochures and posters, and from neighbors and relatives. The organic vegetable they produce were lettuce, carrots, zucchini, cabbage and Chinese cabbage. For the acceptability 80% of the respondents said that if all the needed support would be available or provided they are willing to adopt or accept organic farming. As the reason of adopting or not adopting organic farming in Buguias, the main external factors or reason that affect of organic farming is no support from the government (60.29%) and as well as no sustained technical support. The main internal factor or reasons that affect the respondents of not adopting organic farming are low yield, poor quality of crops and for most they are expert on conventional farming. The factors or reason of the respondents in practicing organic farming where the following: beneficial to health, better quality, good effect in the environment, lesser capital needed and more economical.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions were formulated:

1. Farmers in Buguias, Benguet are generally aware of organic farming and the component of organic farming mostly known by the farmers is the use of compost in the farm. However, most of them are not adopting organic farming because there are several factors hindering them to adopt organic farming; and,

2. Organic farming is acceptable to many of the farmers in Buguias and they are willing to go into organic farming as long as technical, financial, material inputs and marketing supports would be provided to them since majority of those not adopting organic farming is due to low yield as compared to conventional, poor quality crops, laborious, and majority of them are expert on conventional farming.

Recommendations

Base on the conclusions the following are recommended:

1.Farmers should be educated about the long term benefits of organic farming. Furthermore, they should be educated on their social responsibility to other people and the consuming public if they continue to use conventional farming; and,

2. Since farmers in Buguias are not willing to shift to organic farming unless they are given supports like trainings and seminar on the practice of organic farming, provision of material inputs like materials for green house and ready compost and other inputs which they can just buy, affordable credit and help them market their products so that they can produce by volume.

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