

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PARAN, SHIRLY P. APRIL 2013. Assessment on Farmers' Acceptability of Organic Farming in Tuba, Benguet. Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet.

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the farmer's acceptability of organic farming in Tuba, Benguet. The specified objective were to determine the farmer's awareness on organic farming; identify the reasons why farmers are not practicing organic farming and identify the farmer's sources of information about organic farming. Survey questionnaires were randomly distributed to 100 respondents who are all engaged into farming.

Conventional farming is mostly practiced in the area and most of the respondents are dependent on farming as a main source of income.

Majority of the respondents are aware and has already heard about organic farming from broadcast media but only a few of them tried organic farming. The main internal reason why most of these farmers did not practice organic farming is because they have inadequate knowledge and it is not convenient to apply in their area while the main external reason also are; there is no support from the government in case the farmer's farm failed and the farmers are already exposed to conventional farming. Organic farming is acceptable to almost all of the respondent and they are willing to go into this kind of farming if the needed support will be given to them.



Based on the findings of the study, organic farming is mostly heard by respondents from broadcast media and is acceptable to the people. Inadequate knowledge and no support from the government in case the farm of the farmers failed are the main reason of farmers in not adopting organic farming but there is a potential for organic farming to be practiced by majority of the people in the area as long as the needed support will be given to them.

It is recommended that the Department of Agriculture and other concerned agencies must conduct more seminars and give more information about organic farming for the people to be aware about this farming system and that the support needed by the farmers should be provided in order for them to go into organic farming.



INTRODUCTION

Rationale

Farmers have become more aware of the harmful effects brought about by the use of chemicals in their farms especially to their health. As a consequence, according to Colting as cited by Palangchao (2006) in the study of Lomiwes (2007) many farmers in La Trinidad and the rest of Benguet Province have become receptive to the idea of shifting from conventional farming to organic farming.

The development sector at the turn of the century is broadly estimated to be worth USD 26 billion worldwide and generally the most rapidly growing sector of agriculture. Growth has largely been led by demand from consumers in high-income countries who favour organic produce for a variety of reasons, including perceived benefits to health and the environment, perceived improvements in the food quality and taste, accessibility of fresh produce, and helping small-scale local producers, communities and markets. For some producers, organic farming is both a way of life, involving a holistic ecosystem approach to agriculture, production, and an economic enterprise. For others, organic farming is viewed primarily as an economic activity responding to consumer preferences, marketed as niche foods at premium prices through supermarkets. In other countries, this has meant that large corporate farming operations are now using organic methods. This present a challenge for some in the organic movement who are concerned about the social and environmental impacts of business practices and structural characteristics of mainstream agriculture but also want to encourage the spread of organic farming principles and facilitate greater consumer access to organic food (Anonymous, 2003).



Organic farming is the practice of raising plants, especially fruits and vegetables, but ornamentals as well, without the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers.

Though, for people view organic farming as backward, this actually goes hand- and -hand with previewing our environment and sustaining our land (Malanes, 2004) as cited in the study of Lomiwes (2007). Thus people should be more aware in maintaining the long-term fertility of the soil not only for their own benefit but also for the benefits of future generations.

Tuba is a second class municipality in the province of Benguet, Philippines. According to the latest census, it has a population of 40,008 people in 7,210 households.

Tuba is among the thirteen municipalities of the Province of Benguet. It lies at the south to southwestern tip of the province of Benguet as well as the Cordillera Administrative Region. It is bounded on the north by the city of Baguio, on the east by the municipality of Itogon, on the south by the province of Pangasinan, and on the west by the province of La Union. It has a total land area of 44, 925.95 hectares comprising thirteen barangays.

While the municipality is classified as second class municipality, the predominant type of employment in the locality is farming and other agriculture-based activities.

Considering the emerging popularity of organically produced commodities in the world which is seen to benefit organic farming practitioners in the Philippines, Benguet farmers in particular. This study would be conducted to determine the acceptability of organic farming among farmers of Tuba, Benguet.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Beginning of the Organic Food Market

Organic farming lies in Europe, where different actors experimented with and develop forms of alternative agriculture from the early 1920's. A worldwide organic market has existed ever since. Only after World War 11 did difference between organic food and that produced by conventional industrialized farming system become more evident to consumers. By the 1960's a range of alternative food distribution networks- including non-profit food cooperatives and consumers had also been established, providing for the local distribution of organic food (Lockeretz, 2007). In the early 1970's, environmental movements increased their focus on organic farming and consumers were specifically targeted.

Farming

Farming is a member's skill, in which players grow crops using seeds and harvest useful items from them, or more commonly harvest the plant itself. The crops grown range from the standard staples of vegetables, fruits and fruit trees, herbs, to more exotic and usual crops such as wood bearing trees, cacti, and mushrooms. The harvested items have wide range of uses, but are mostly used to train herb lure or cooking, or simply eaten as food. Many players sell their harvest for a significant profit.



Organic

The term organic is best thought of as referring not to the type of inputs used, but to the concept of the farm as an organism, in which all the components such as soil minerals, organic matter, microorganisms, insect, plants and humans interact to create a coherent self-regulating and stable whole. Reliance on external inputs, whether chemical or organic is reduced as far as possible (Anonymous, 2005).

Organic Agriculture and Sustainability

The strong balance of evidence from research, field's trials and farm experience is that organic agricultural practices are generally more environmentally friendly than conventional agriculture, particularly with regard to lower pesticide residues, a richer biodiversity and greater resilience drought. Organic farming also holds the potential to lower nutrient run-off and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are situations where intensive management within organic farming regimes can impoverish biodiversity and animal manure can be applied in excess of requirements.

Evidence concerning the economic performance of organic compared to conventional farming is mixed. While yields tend to be lower on organic farms, and labour cost higher than on conventional farms, profitability is generally higher, due to price premiums and –in many countries- support payments. Generalised economic performance comparisons between organic and conventional farms are not always meaningful-there can be as much variation within each farm system as across them. The analysis and understanding of social aspects of organic farming are least well developed, and



comparisons with conventional agriculture are not easy to make. Organic agriculture is based on holistic view of the integration of farming into nature.

Policy approaches to organic agriculture. Government justify policy intervention in the organic sector on the basis on the infant- industry argument and/ or market failure and the provision of public environmental benefits. The infant- industry justification is based on the cost of converting from conventional to organic production. The market- failure justification is based on cases where the market does not remunerate environmental benefits generated by organic farming systems. This is compounded where farms organic or conventional are not held to account for any environmental damage they cause.

The significant production growth in the sector. Industry and government sources indicate that global organic production has increased to 20% annually over the past 10 years.

Growing consumer demand for organic products. While organic food products provide only a small share of total consumption in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries; this share is higher in some countries, notably in Europe, and for certain products, such as fruit, vegetables and dairy products. This growth has been influenced to some degree by food scares associated with non-organic products and the perceived health benefits of organic products.

Public concern for sustainability. Organic agriculture is seen to provide a more sustainable farming system, offering alternative economic opportunities for producers, a production system, more in tune with the environment, along with greater social responsibility.



Significance of Producing Organic Vegetables

According to De la Cruz (2004), crops that were applied with organic fertilizer performed better compared to those crops that were grown with commercial fertilizer. The slow release of nutrients from animal manure minimizes the nutrient losses in the soil resulting to the efficient nutrient uptake of crops that leads to higher yields. Organic farming also serves as a valuable conditioner of soil retaining humidity and improving, structure and internal drainage. Organic system replenishes and maintains soil fertility, eliminate the use of toxic and persistent pesticides and fertilizers, and build biologically diverse agriculture.

Advantages of Organic Farming

The most important of the advantages of organic farming is that it maintains the life of the soil, not only for the current generation, but also for the future generation. Water pollution is reduced with organic farming. Most of the times after rains, the water from the fields, which contains chemical, get drained into the rivers. This pollutes the water bodies. In organic farming, since no chemicals or synthetics are used, water pollution reduces as well.

Organically grown food tastes better too. The overall cost of cultivating the crops reduces as the farmers use green manure or worm farming to replenish the lost nutrients of the soil. The other option that the farmers use is to grow legumes in rotation with other crops.



Disadvantages of Organic Farming

Along with the pros of organic farming, there are certain cons too. One disadvantage is that it has low productivity. With the highly developed chemicals and machinery, the farmer is able to multiply his harvest manifold times. The organic farmers use the cultivation method as opposed to drilling method used by the traditional farmers. The cultivated soil is prone to wind and water erosion. The traditional farmers don't know that direct drilling does not cause any disharmony in soil structure. The organically produced food is also expensive. The cost is very often 50-100% more than the traditional food and lastly, organic food is not always available in the market.



METHODOLOGY

Locale and Time of the Study

The study was conducted in the 5 barangays of Tuba, Benguet namely, Tabaan Norte, Tabaan Sur, Taloy Sur, Taloy Norte, and Nangalisan. The five barangays were chosen because the residents of these areas rely most on farming as a source of income. Tuba is situated in the southwestern tip of the Central Cordillera Mountain Range that extends from the northwestern tip of Luzon towards Pangasinan and is considered the gateway to Baguio City and Benguet. It shares common boundaries with the provinces of Pangasinan and La Union to the south. Tuba is a Philippine municipality in the province of Benguet in Region Cordillera Administrative Region which belongs to the Luzon group of islands. The municipality of Tuba is seated about 18 km south-south-west of La Trinidad, the Provincial capital and about 199 km north-west of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. The map of the site is shown in Figure 1.

This study was conducted from December to January 2013.

Respondents of the Study

Respondents were limited to the farmers who are residents of Tuba, Benguet for easier access. There were a total of 100 respondents that were randomly selected from the identified barangays of Tuba, Benguet.



Data Collection

A survey questionnaire was distributed by the researcher to the respondents.

Data Gathered

The data gathered was the socio-demographic characteristics of the farmers; their awareness and acceptability of organic farming.

Data Analysis

The data collected was consolidated, tabulated, and analyzed using frequency counts, averages and percentage.



SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The study was conducted in five barangays of Tuba, Benguet namely, Tabaan Sur, Tabaan Norte, Taloy Sur, Taloy Norte and Nangalisan. The study aimed to determine the farmers' awareness on organic farming, identify the reasons why farmers are not practicing organic farming and identify the farmers' sources of information about organic farming.

Survey questionnaires were randomly distributed to 100 respondents who are all engaged into farming. The data gathered were consolidated, tabulated and analyzed using frequency counts, averages and percentage.

Conventional farming is mostly practiced in the area. Most of the respondents are dependent on farming as a main source of income.

A great majority of the respondents are aware and has already heard about organic farming mostly from broadcast media, other sources are from their relatives, friends, seminars given by the Department of Agriculture (DA), Agriculturist and farm Technicians who are going in their place but only a few of them tried organic farming.

The main internal reason why most of these farmers did not practice organic farming is because they have inadequate knowledge and it is not convenient to apply in their area while the main external reason also are; there is no support from the government in case the farmer's farm failed and the farmers are already exposed to conventional farming.

Organic farming is acceptable to almost all of the respondent and they are willing to go into this kind of farming if the needed support will be given to them.



Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were derived:

1. Organic farming is mostly heard in broadcast media;
2. Organic farming is not merely practiced in the area but is acceptable to the people;
3. Inadequate knowledge and no support from the government in case the farm of the farmers failed are the main reason of farmers in not adopting organic farming; and,
4. There is a potential for organic farming to be practiced by majority of the farmers in the area as long as the needed support will be given to them.

Recommendations

From the conclusions, the following are recommended:

1. The Department of Agriculture and other concerned agencies must conduct more seminars and give more information about organic farming for the people to be aware about this farming system; and,
2. The support needed by the farmers should be provided in order for them to go into organic farming. Technical support; financial support and marketing of the organic product they produced are the support needed by the respondents in the area.



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