

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BATONAN, RODEL P. APRIL 2012. Perception of Farmers on Organic Farming in Bangao, Buguias, Benguet. Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study was conducted in November, 2011 at Bangao, Buguias, Benguet with the following objectives: to determine demographic profile of the respondent; to determine the perception of the farmers on the use of organic toward organic farming; and to determine the expected constraints of the farmers relative to of organic farming.

There were 30 respondents who were vegetable producers and majority were married and ages 20 and below with an educational attainment of secondary level, had been farming for less than ten years and working on a 100-1000 square meters farm size.

Respondents' perception on organic farming that organically products produced were hard to sell, and also agreed with the environmental health aspects of organic farming such as organic farming promoting cleaner safer products. On the other hand, they were disagreed that soil fertility is enhanced in organic farming and believed that it is expensive in the preparation of organic inputs wherein it is laborious and time consuming and they also disagreed that soil fertility is enhanced in organic farming.

The prevailing problems of the respondents were the lack of skill and knowledge. Consequently, they were disagreed that organic farming constraints are lack of available material for the production on organic fertilizer.



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## INTRODUCTION

### Rationale

Increasing soil fertility through organic matter application is very important in maintaining high, stable crop yield. Furthermore, worldwide shortages of energy resources have increased the cost of mineral fertilizer thus compost making is gaining more popularity as a source of nutrient.

Organic Farming, system of agriculture that excludes the use of synthetic pesticides, growth hormones, antibiotics, genetically modified seeds and animal breeds, and irradiation. Organic farmers instead rely on ecosystem management, including the use of 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 (Microsoft Encarta, 2009)

Barangay Bangao is a major producer of semi-temperate vegetables in the country is not spared of this plight. The farmers especially the vegetable producers are experiencing losses due to the high cost of input and the declining soil fertility this is aggravated by low prices caused by importation and smuggling of similar lower priced vegetables from China and other countries that can produce the crop more efficiently

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 generations. Water pollution is reduced with organic farming. It is observed that chemical in the soil



are, gets drained which eventually pollutes the river. Organic farming can be the solution to prevent water pollution.

Organic farming helps in building richer soil. Rich soil is obtained by intelligently rotating crops. The rich soil helps in plant growth. The rate of soil erosion is reduced drastically. A French study has revealed that the nutritional quality and micro-nutrients are present in higher quantities in organically produced crops.

### Statement of the Problem

This study was expected to source out answer the following questions:

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents?
2. What are the perceptions of the farmers on practicing organic farming?
3. What are the constraints of the farmers relating to the use of organic farming?

### Objectives of the Study

Generally the study aimed to determine the perception of the farmers on organic vegetable production in line with these general objectives the specific objectives to:

1. Determine demographic profile of the respondent;
2. Determine the perceptions of the farmers on the use of organic toward organic farming and;
3. Determine the constraints of the farmers relative to of organic farming.

### Importance of the Study

Organic farming is a highly an ethical form of agriculture production, with clear concerns for human and animal welfare such as ensuring that farmers will get a fair return for their work and are not exploited by consumers.

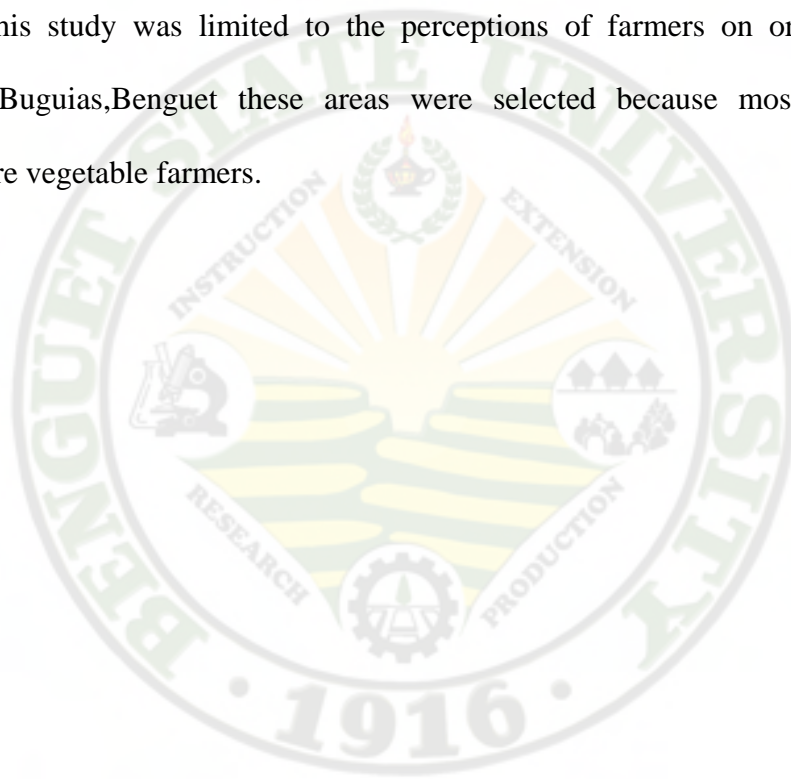


Shifting to organic farming in Bangao would benefit the farmers in many ways. It would help them to preserve soil fertility to produce chemical free vegetables as well as to ensure a sustained farming productivity.

Conducting this study will help the farmer then farmer of Bangao to be familiarized with organic farming.

### Scope and Delimitation

This study was limited to the perceptions of farmers on organic farming in Bangao, Buguias, Benguet these areas were selected because most farmers in the place where vegetable farmers.



## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Organic Farming

Organic Agriculture (OA) is the traditional term used by the farmers to include all the diverse farming system without the use of chemical inputs. Furthermore, organic agriculture promotes and enhances a holistic production management, which includes agro-ecosystem, health including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. Crop rotations, green manuring, recycling of farm manure as other ecological ways of building up soil fertility and productivity were the appropriate practices in organic farming (Briones, 1997).

### Perceptions

According to *Morse et al.*, (1995) perception a given scene is a complex set of creation including sensory stimulation organizing force within the nervous system symbolic recollection of the past experiences and the arousal of effective response. Kelly (1995) stated that the perception define as the process of interpreting and giving meaning to sensation of particular object. However, according to Hudelson (1979) cited by Melio (2001) who stated that a successful vegetable farmer not only selects his main product which gives him a well-b balance and efficient business value by selecting his main product.

Moreover, according to Stroud (1946), perception is cognitive process and involves as core points, a stimulating object or event, an attentive adjustment and the arousal of some degree of meaning. The apprehension of the significance of the object or event for some act of adjustment.



It was mentioned that low educational attainment and smallest of form are essential to the fall of small revenue and unsatisfactory of living condition among farmers. Furthermore, large family household, low income, unemployment, small revenue and adjust land tenure and lack of supporting services are most of the problems that hamper socio-economic of the community (Alviar, 1980).

### Problems Encountered

According to Wallang (2001) as cited by Tigo( 2004) stated that there are some limiting effect of the efficiency of technically trained manpower, the lack of management knowledge skills needed in the job and the worst problem is the lack of funds to finance the desired program. Furthermore, from the observation, the slow pace of development in the rural areas could be attributed to the interplay of several factors.

Furthermore, according to Moron (1991) as cited by Butag (2003), farmers encounter problems in marketing which include erratic price and highly perishability of fruits and those farmers with poor market needs find it very difficult to transport their products. Most products are damaged, a situation that leads to low price. Moreover Reinhold (1994) said that fruit and vegetable are bulky and perishable and many are shipped long distance to their market cost. Therefore, the processed form usually involves high marketing margins because the cost of processing is unusually high.

Accordingto Dresher (1983), people's beliefs, values and traditions must be considered obstacles to the development. These social traditions of social values and traditions of rural community and of the larger society of which they are part in some ways hinder rural progress and development. Generally, as new innovation prove their





worth. The idea new method in order to increase production grains increasing social acceptance and development.

### Benefits of Organic Fertilizer to Health and Environment

The advantage of Organic Fertilizer to the farmers would be the higher prices for organically produced because it reflects the trust cost of growing the food substituting labor and intensive management for chemicals, the health and environment costs of which are born by society. These includes clean up of polluted water and remediation of pesticide contamination. Prices for organic foods include cost of growing, harvesting, transportation, and storage (Hopkins and Feber, 2001).

According to Balfour (2000) the organic fertilizer preserves and enhances top soil, it increases the chances that future generations can continue growing food. It minimizes the flow of toxic pesticides into the streams, rivers, and lakes. It encourage healthy population of beneficial insects that help destructive pests under control and represent long term saving not just for the farmers but also for future generations.

In 2000, USDA stated that conservation and maintenance of environment quality is inherent in the agricultural practices utilized by organic farmers. Organic farmers rely heavily upon crop and soil management practices that aid water infiltration, resist soil erosion, improve soil tilt and productivity, recycle organic waste, and reduce pollution of the soil and water.

Kinoshita (1972), as cited by Tomilas (1996) reported that application of organic fertilizer in sufficient amount improves soil structure; serves to improve organic fertilizer increase not only the quantity of nutrient elements for plant growth and development but



also decreases bulk density of the soil. Organic matter can increase water absorption and lessen water run-off leading and erosion.

PCARRD (1982), as cited by Pandosen (1986), stated that organic fertilizers supply some amount of the nutrient requirements of the crop and they promote favourable soil properties, such as granulation, efficient aeration and easy root penetration.

### Organic Production

Organic farming is a science not a superstition and some of the scientists in this connection are the traditional farmers themselves who through generations of observing what works have come up with natural solutions with minimal external inputs to many farming problems. In East Africa, such experience has, for example, resulted in most small and medium scale farms using mixed cropping systems. Scientists are now realising that this practice is one of the best suited to tropical farm management. Organic farming is based on the knowledge on how nature works and trying to work with nature rather than to keep fighting it. Scientists work to discover the laws of nature, and just as in physics there are such laws as gravity, there are also laws for how living organisms exist in harmony with each other and their surroundings. Likewise, the laws of ecology need to be appreciated (Gunner, 2006).

### Risk to Farm Workers

There are studies detailing the effects and side effects of pesticides upon the health of farm workers. Even when pesticides are organic, and are used correctly, they still end up in the air and bodies of farm workers. Through these studies,



organophosphate pesticides have become associated with acute health problems such as abdominal pain, dizziness, headaches, nausea, vomiting, as well as skin and eye problems. In addition, there have been many other studies that have found pesticide exposure is associated with more severe health problems such as respiratory problems, memory disorders, dermatologic conditions, cancer, depression, neurologic deficits, miscarriages, and birth defects. Summaries of peer-reviewed research have examined the link between pesticide exposure and neurological outcomes and cancer in organophosphate-exposed workers. Those pesticides found to cause major health problems are banned for use in agriculture, conventional or organic, in many developed countries.

Imported fruits and vegetables from Latin America are more likely to contain high level of pesticides, even pesticides banned for use in the United States. Migratory birds, such as Swainson's Hawks, have wintering grounds in Argentina where thousands of them were found dead from monocrotophos insecticide poisoning.

### Yield on Organic Farming

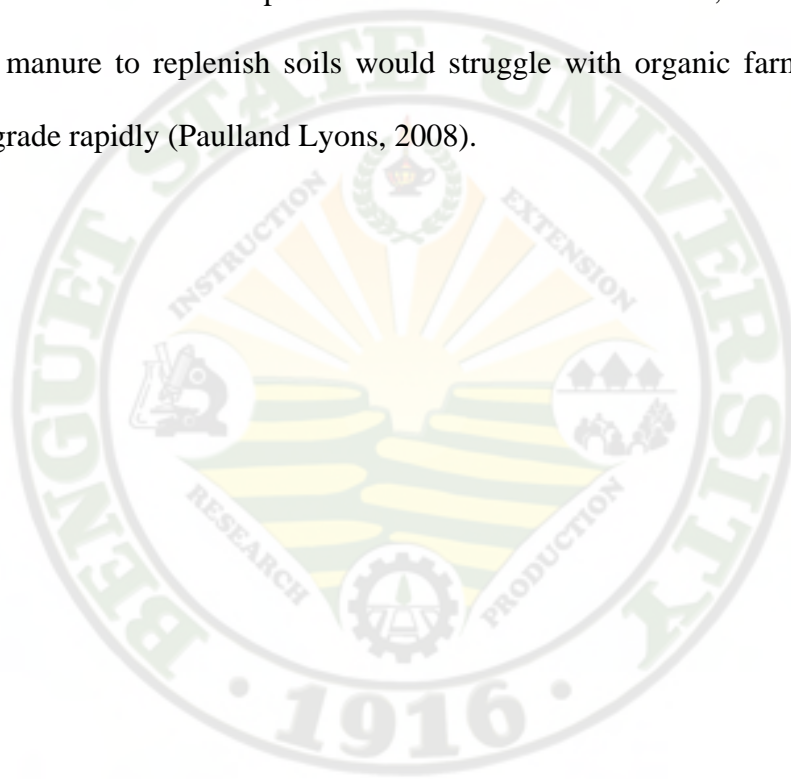
Magdoff and Weil (2004) stated that 20% smaller yield from organic farms using 50% less fertilizer and 97% less pesticide. Studies comparing yields have had mixed results. Supporters claim that organically managed soil has higher quality and higher water retention. This may help increase yields for organic farms in drought years.

One study from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA, 1999) found that, area-for-area; organic farms of potatoes; sugar beet and seed grass produce as little as half the output of conventional farming. Respond to this by pointing out that the average yield of world agriculture is substantially lower than modern sustainable farming



yields. Bringing average world yields up to modern organic levels could increase the world's food supply by 50%.

The researchers also found that while in developed countries, organic systems on average produce 92% of the yield produced by conventional agriculture; organic systems produce 80% more than conventional farms in developing countries, because the materials needed for organic farming are more accessible than synthetic farming materials to farmers in some poor countries. On the other hand, communities that lack sufficient manure to replenish soils would struggle with organic farming, and the soil would degrade rapidly (Paulland Lyons, 2008).



## **METHODOLOGY**

### Locale and Time of the Study

This study was conducted at Bangao, Buguias, Benguet 95kilometers away from La Trinidad, Benguet. This study was conducted from October to December 2011

Bangao is one of the vegetable producers found in the municipality of Buguias where it produces mainly of potato and cabbage. It is located between Abatan and Barangay Calamagan.

### Respondents of the study

The study considered 30 vegetable farmers in Cot-cot and Dalegdig as respondents of the study who were randomly selected.

### Data Gathered

An interview was used to gather the needed information and data. It was supplemented with personal interview to clarify the answers. The questionnaire was formulated based on the objectives of the study.

### Data Analysis

The Data gathered was tabulated and analyzed using frequency count and appropriate other statistical tools.



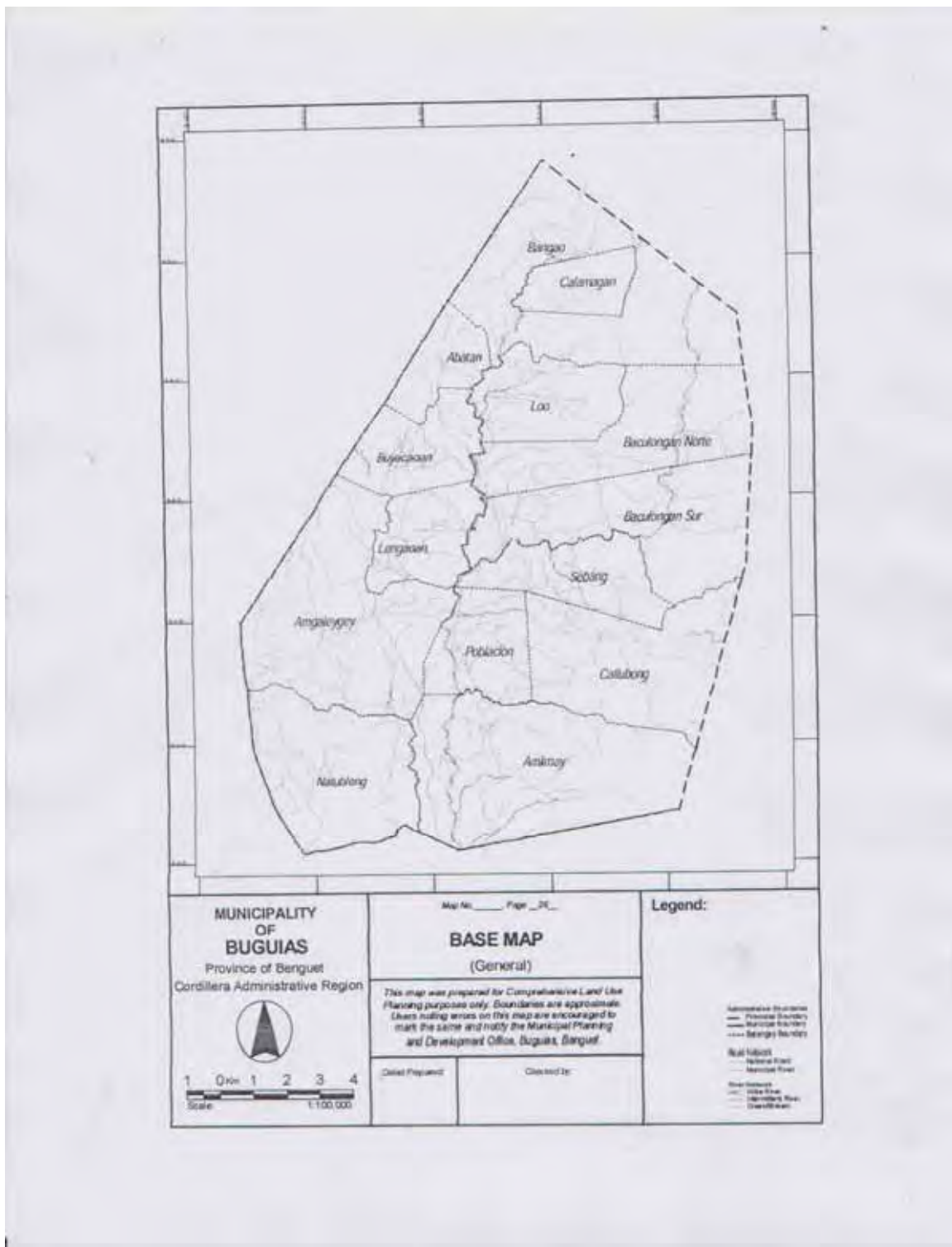


Figure 1. Area of the Study



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Personal and Farming Profile of Respondent

Table 1 shows the personal and profile of the respondents according to age, sex, educational attainment and number of years in farming.

Among the 30 respondents, 20% belonged to the age range from 18 to 20 years old; 16.67% from 26 to 40 years old; 13% from 46 to 50 years old. This result indicates that the respondents are relatively young.

Furthermore, 22 were female and 8 were males as shown in Table 1. This shows that females were more active in the farm.

With regard to their educational attainment, 60% are secondary graduate; 20% were elementary graduates; and only few were college graduates. This shows that majority of the respondents were literates.

As to the number of years in farming 11 had farming experience for 6-10 years; 8 with 1 to 6 years of farm while 7 had farming experience for 11 to 15 years, only few with 16 to 20 years of farming and only one with 21 years and above. Furthermore (30.0%) of the respondents had been operating 600-1000 square meters while (26.57%) with a farm size of less than 600 square meters, 6 operated 2100 square meters and above, and only 4 respondents operated 1100-1500 square meter.



Table 1. Personal and farming profile

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Age		
25 and below	6	20.00
26-30	5	16.67
31-35	5	16.67
36-40	5	16.67
46-50	4	13.3
51 and above	1	3.3
TOTAL	30	100.00
Gender		
Female	22	73.33
Male	8	26.67
TOTAL	30	100.00
Educational attainment		
elementary graduate	6	20.00
Secondary graduate	18	60.00
College graduate	4	13.33
Post-graduate	2	6.67
TOTAL	30	100.00
Years of farming		
1-6 years	8	26.67





Table 1 continued...

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
6-10 years	11	36.67
11-15 years	7	23.33
16-20 years	3	10.00
21 years and above	1	3.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Total farm size (sq. m.)</b>		
100-500 sq. m	8	26.67
600-1000 sq. m	9	30.00
1100-1500 sq. m	4	13.33
1600-2000 sq. m	3	10.00
2100 sq. m an above	6	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### Crops Grown

Table 2 shows the different vegetables produced by farmers. Majority of the respondents produced Potato; 76.0%, cabbage; 23.33%, broccoli, 20%;6.67%, lettuce. This indicates the vegetable growers prefer to cultivate potatoes, cabbage and broccoli. Accordingly, these are considered major and cash crops. Furthermore, it suited to the climate condition of Buguias, Benguet.



Table 2. Vegetable Crops produced by the respondents

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	(F)	(%)
Cabbage	23	76.67
Potato	28	93.33
Broccoli	7	23.33
Peas	6	20.00
Carrot	5	16.67
Chinese cabbage	5	16.67
Pechay	3	10.00
Lettuce	2	6.67
Beans	2	6.67

### Level of knowledge on Organic Farming

Table 3 presents the level of knowledge of respondents on organic farming. Only 15 or (50%) of the respondents claimed that they had moderate knowledge on organic farming meaning that they are not yet fully knowledgeable on the practices of organic farming; and only 2 of the respondents claimed that they had low and very high knowledge on organic farming. Respectively, the data indicates that majority of the respondents still lack appropriate knowledge on organic farming.



Table 3 Level of knowledge on organic farming

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Very high	2	6.67
High	6	20.00
Moderate	15	50.00
Low	2	6.67
No knowledge	5	16.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### Perception on Organic Farming

Table 4 shows the perception of the respondents on organic farming. Majority 25 of the respondents claimed that they disagreed to the idea that organic farming is expensive although they claimed that it is laborious and time consuming. Respondents however agreed that lower yield is obtained with organic farming. Although 21 respondents said land use is maximized through organic farming and mostly disagreed (63.33%) optimum production levels is obtained with organic farming and they agreed that organically produced products demands higher price. Although all of them agreed that organic vegetable crop are hard to sell because of higher price. All of the respondents agreed that organic farming produce safer vegetable because of absence of chemical residue that shows that the respondents had varying perception with regard to organic farming although what is important that they are all aware of organic farming.



Table 4. Perception on Organic farming

PARTICULAR	AGREE		DISAGREE	
	(F)	(%)	(F)	(%)
<b>A. socio-economic perception on organic farming</b>				
Organic farming is expensive	5	16.67	25	83.33
Preparation of organic inputs is laborious and time consuming.	18	60.00	12	40.00
Lower yield is Obtained with organic farming during the conversion period	27	90.00	3	10.00
Land use farm resources is maximized with organic farming	21	70.00	9	30.00
Optimum production levels is obtained with organic farming	11	36.67	19	63.33
Organically produced products demands higher price	23	76.67	7	23.33
Organically products produced is hard to sell	30	100.00	0	0.00
<b>B.Environment al perception on organic farming</b>				
Conversion to organic farming does not give economic reward to farmers	16	53.33	14	46.67
Organic farming promotes cleaner safer environment minimizing air, soil, and water pollution	17	56.67	13	43.33
Soil fertility is enhanced in organic farming	4	13.33	26	86.67
Organic farming helps balance the ecosystem	21	70.00	9	30.00



Table 4.continued...

PARTICULAR	AGREE		DISAGREE	
	(F)	(%)	(F)	(%)
<b>C.Health aspect on organic farming</b>				
Organic farming promotes sustainable agriculture	13	43.33	17	56.67
Organic farming produces safer food products	30	100.0	0	0.00
Organic products are healthier because of the presence of natural nutrients	21	70.00	9	30.00
Organic farming promotes good human and animals health	22	73.33	8	26.67

#### Constraints of Farmers in Adapting Organic Farming

Table 5 shows the constraints of the respondents in adapting organic farming. Most of the respondents 46.67% considered organic farming as laborious, with less production, and requires more skills and knowledge for those who want to engage in organic farming. Only few respondents said that certification of organic vegetables would pose as a problem since they are not aware that organic vegetables need to be certified the lack of available materials to produce aside from that the respondents also claimed organic fertilizer.

The results indicate that with the prevailing problems or constraints that the respondents are experiencing sometimes discourages them from practicing organic farming

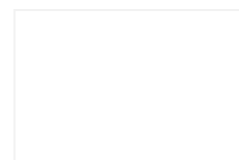


Table 5. Constraints of Farmers in Adapting Organic Farming

PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	(F)	(%)
Requires considerably more skills and knowledge	14	46.67
More labour/work-intensive	14	46.67
Less production	14	46.67
Requires certification	7	23.33
Lack of available materials for the production of organic fertilizer	11	36.67

\*multiple responses

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



### Summary

Organic farming is a method of farming that requires farmers to operate a system. It is a form of agriculture that relies on crop rotation, green manure, compost, biological pest control and mechanical cultivation to maintain soil productivity and control pests, excluding or strictly limiting the use of synthetic fertilizers and synthetic pesticides.

However, a concern is placed on the acceptability of this idea to the farmers as only a few have gone into this.

The study aimed to determine the following: the demographic profile of the respondent; the perception of the farmers on the use of organic farming; and the constraints relative to organic farming.

Thirty respondents from Barangay Bangao Buguias, Benguet were considered as respondents of the study

The results indicate that the respondents were young, married and were all literates and have been farming for less than ten years and operated an average area of 100-1000sq.m

With regards to the perception on organic farming respondents agreed that organically produced vegetable are hard to sell. However, they are disagreed that Organic farming is expensive, laborious and time consuming.

Results shows that respondents agree that agree with the environmental health aspects of organic farming such as organic farming promoting cleaner safer products. However, they disagree that soil fertility is enhanced in organic farming.

Under the constraints of farmers in adapting organic farming, results show that



respondents agree that organic farming requires considerably more skills and knowledge.

However, they were disagreed that organic farming constraints are lack of available

material for the production on organic fertilizer.

### Conclusions

Based on the summary of findings and objectives, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. The respondents are relatively young, literate and were experienced farmers, cultivating and average area of 600-1000 sq m. They produced a variety of highland vegetables.

2. The respondents did not have ample knowledge on organic farming although they claimed that they are aware of organic farming.

3. With regard to perceptions on organic farming majority agreed that organic farming is advantageous and with proper knowledge it can be able to improve the socio-economic status of farmers as well as contribute to the maintenance of well balanced environment as well as promoting good health.

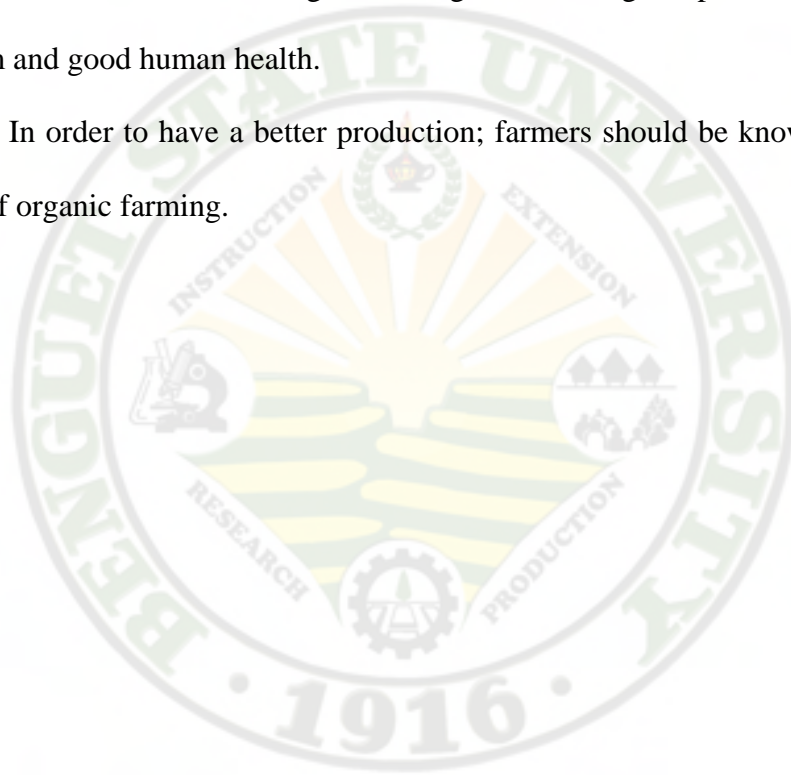
4. The respondents identified several constraints in practicing organic farming. However those constraints can be properly addressed through continuous education and information dissemination.





### Recommendations

1. The Department of Agriculture should conduct trainings, seminars and information dissemination regarding organic farming so that farmer wouldbe fully aware of organic farming.
2. To inform and educate farmers in organic farming through initiation of proper communication and hands on training.
3. Persuade farmers to go into organic farming to promote a well balance ecosystem and good human health.
4. In order to have a better production; farmers should be knowledgeable on the practice of organic farming.

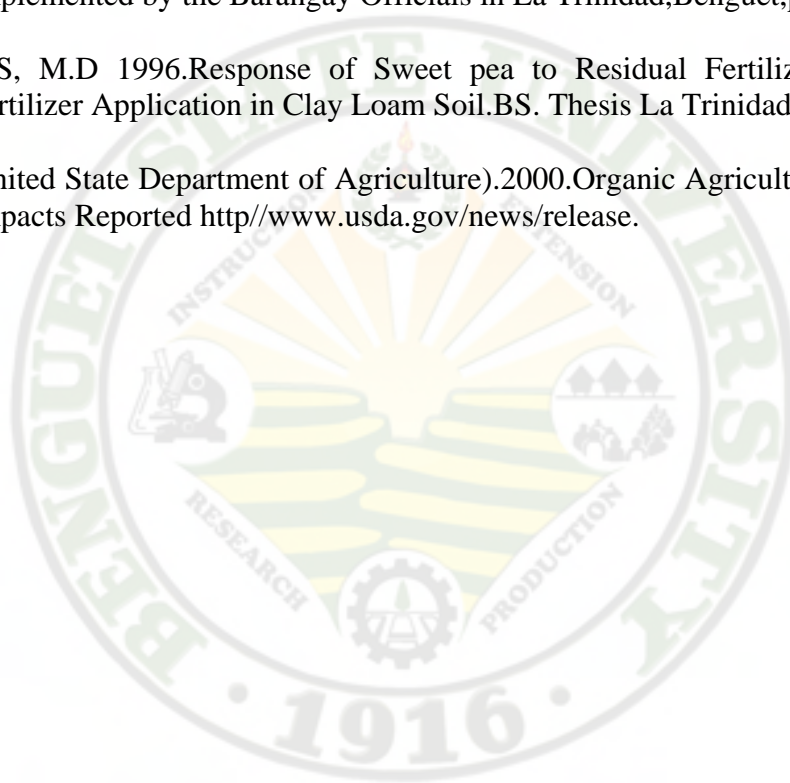


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## APPENDIX A

### Letter to Respondents

Republic of the Philippines  
Benguet State University  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
La Trinidad, Benguet

Dear Respondent,

I am a 4<sup>th</sup> year B.S Agriculture student of Benguet State University and conducting a study on Perception of the Farmers on Organic Farming in Bangao, Buguias, Benguet as my thesis. The purpose of the study is to determine the perception of farmers on organic farming.

In this connection, I would like to request you to answer the questionnaire correctly rest assured that any information will be treated with strict confidence

Respectfully yours,

RODEL P. BATONAN

Researcher

Noted:

HILARIO C. PEREZ  
Adviser



APPENDIX B

Survey Questionnaire

PERCEPTION OF FARMER ON ORGANIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN  
BANGAO, BUGUIAS, BENGUET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender ( ) Male ( ) Female

Civil Status ( ) Single ( ) Married ( ) Separated ( ) Widowed

Sitio: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Educational Attainment

( ) Elementary level ( ) High school ( ) College level ( ) Post graduate

No. of years in farming: \_\_\_\_\_

Total area for farming: \_\_\_\_\_

What vegetable do you produce?

( ) Cabbage ( ) Beans ( ) Chayote ( ) potato ( ) Pechay ( ) Peas

( ) Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I. What definition would apply most to your understanding of what organic farming is?

( ) farming without the use of commercial pesticides and fertilizers

( ) farming with the use of organic fertilizers only

( ) farming with the use of organic pesticides only

( ) farming that minimizes the use of synthetic chemicals

( ) Others definition \_\_\_\_\_



## II. Rate your knowledge on organic farming

	VERY HIGH HIGH (5)	HIGH (4)	MODERATE (3)	LOW (2)	NO KNOWLEDGE (1)
Organic farming is effective pest control					
Organic farming is effective in soil fertilization					

## III. Perception on organic farming

Please put a check mark on the corresponding rating on the items to indicate your perception on organic farming.

### A. PERCEPTION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ORGANIC MATERIAL

PARTICULARS	DISAGREE	AGREE
Farm wastes can be process as fertilizer.		
Animal wastes(unprocessed)can be readily/directly applied to the soil		
Soil microorganisms are more active in soil applied with organic fertilizer than applied synthetic		
Organic Fertilizers improve the physiochemical characteristics of the soil		
Organic fertilizers has a very slow effect on the crops performances		
The conversion period of organic farming is 3-5 years.		

### B. SOCIO ECONOMICS PERCEPTION ON ORGANIC FARMING

PARTICULARS	DISAGREE	AGREE
Organic farming is expensive		
Preparation of organic input is laborious and time consuming		
Lower yield is obtained with organic farming during the conversion period		



PARTICULARS	DISAGREE	AGREE
Land/use farm resources is maximized with organic farming		
Optimum production levels is obtained with organic farming		
Organically produced products demands higher price		
Organically product produced is hard to sell		
Conversion to organic farming does not give economic rewards to farmers.		

### C. ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTION ON ORGANIC FARMING

PARTICULARS	DISAGREE	AGREE
Organic farming promotes cleaner/safer environment by minimizing air, soil and water pollution		
Organic farming produce safer food products		
Soil fertility is enhanced in organic farming		
Organic farming helps balance the ecosystem		
Organic farming promotes sustainable agriculture		
Organic products are healthier because of the presence of natural nutrients.		
Organic farming promotes good human and animal health.		

### IV. What are the constraints in adapting organic farming?

- Requires considerably more skills and knowledge
- More labor/work- intensive
- Less production
- certification of organic produce
- Lack of available materials for production on organic fertilizer
- Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

