

Problems Faced by Rice Growing Local Farmers in Surigao Del Sur

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ABSTRACT

This paper aimed to find out the problems encountered with the local farmers in the Province of Surigao del Sur. Descriptive research design was used in the study. It was conducted in the top two rice producer in Surigao del Sur. Data from the pre-assessment survey and interview were treated by using the weighted mean to determine the problems faced by the local farmers in Surigao del Sur. The strongly agree adjectival rating of the extent impact of the problems encountered with the local farmers in Surigao del Sur.

KEYWORDS: farm production, local farmers, small holder farmers, economic sector, crop production

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1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a major economic sector and it is particularly exposed to adverse natural events. Weather although, the climate factor is playing an important role for yield and production level of the crops (Rahman, Huq, Sumi, Mostafa, Azad, 2005). However, PAGASA reported the climate change as manifested by the destructive El Niño and La Niña phenomena is threatening the country's food security (March 2016). When in fact, increasingly prevalent natural calamities, pest and other that are taking care to lessen farmers' financial burden when losses related to such disaster are incurred (Reyes, Mina, Gloria, 2016)., insect pests and diseases are the determinants that may affect the crop production.

Agricultural lending institutions are faced with perpetual task of periodically evaluating and financial attributes of their borrowers (Johnson, Hagan, 2015). In fact, failure was already determined like weather disturbances, insect pests and diseases resulting in

crop losses or reduced yields (Corpuz, 2013). This results to increased credit risk of loans granted to small-scale farmers (Pelka, Musshoff, Weber, 2015). The use of economic approach that address simultaneity, selection, and censoring problems (Mutuc, Rejesus, Pan, Yosobe, 2015).

The government should consider short-term strategies that offset environmental adversities such as drought and submergence (Mariano, Villano, Fleming, 2012). Global warming and its implications are considered to be among the largest and most important threats to farming in the 21st century (Konrad, Thum, 2013). However, the damaged caused by insect pests is one of the primary factors leading to reduced production of major crops (Oliveria, Auad, Mendes, Frizzas, 2014). The reduced in yield production state as basic reason of poor payment in loan but sometime agricultural loans is utilized not only in agriculture needs.

Conceptual Framework

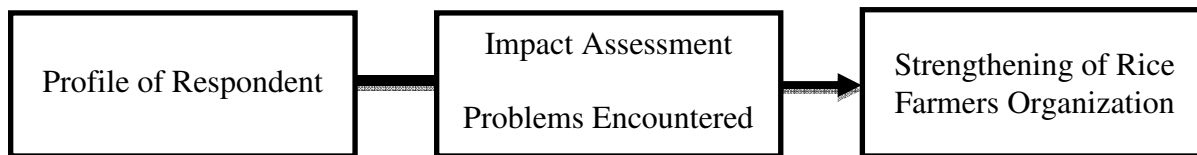


Figure 1 Research Paradigm

The structuring of concepts in this study is introduced in Figure 1. The concept of the study is focused on the profile of local rice farmers from San Miguel and Tago who availed their agricultural loan. The first box highlights the results on the profile of the respondents. The profile of the respondents included sex, age, civil status, number of household members, highest educational attainment, source of income, annual household income, farm tenurial status, farm size and years in farming. The second box on the schematic diagram showed the process of the study through the determination of the the impact of agricultural loan on the local farmers. The respondents responded utilizing the descriptive values; if they will strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree the based on the ten indicators given. The output of the study is shown in the third box which is the formulation of a proposed development intervention program.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

The study used quantitative method of research, which involved the description, interview, analysis and interpretation of the prevailing conditions (Picciano, 2013). The data and information gathered by the proponent came from the respondents if they strongly agree the services offered by the bank through agricultural loan. Descriptive method of research is a fact-finding study with adequate and accurate interpretation of findings.

Research Environment

The study was conducted in the top two (2) rice farmers municipalities of the first district of Surigao del Sur which is the municipality of San Miguel and Tago.

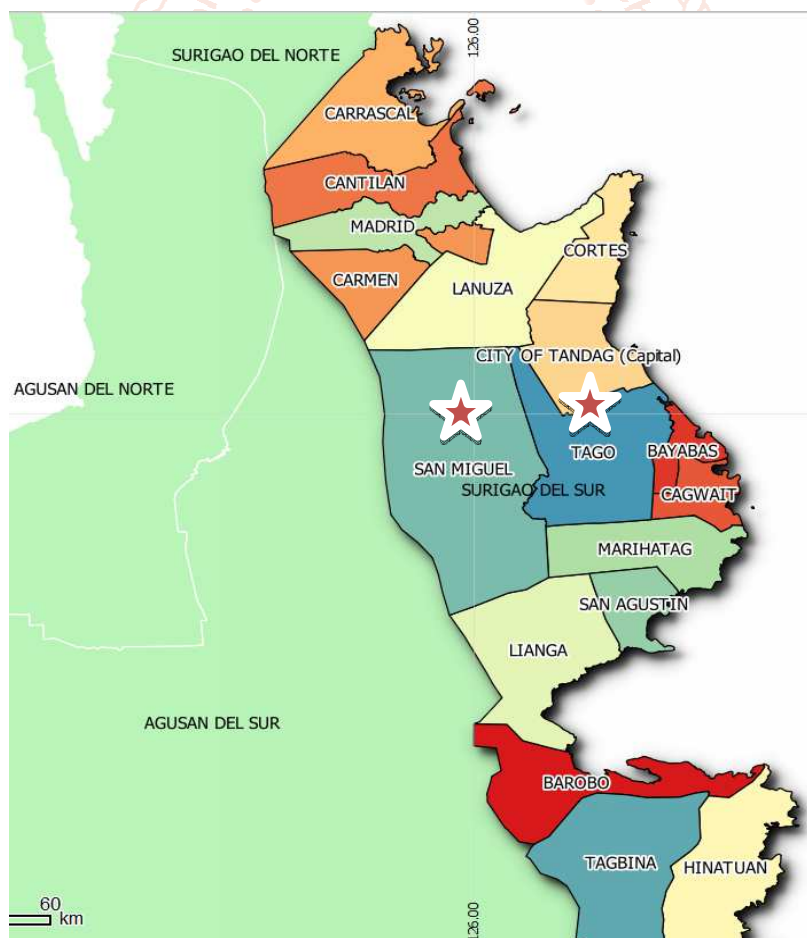


Plate 1 Map of Surigao del Sur

Research Instrument

The instrumentation used in this study was an adapted modified questionnaire. The survey questionnaire consisted of three parts. The first part of the questionnaire entailed the respondents profile. It includes the sex,

age, civil status, number of household members, highest educational attainment, source of income, average annual household income, farm tenurial status, farm size and years in farming. Part II of the questionnaire entailed the checklist of the problems encountered. Several problems were given which are calamity, diseases in rice, presence of insect pests, variety of rice does not suit to the analysis of the soil, marketing problem and loan repayment. The problems were also identified by the respondents.

Validity. The questionnaires were validated in terms of their content. A draft of the instrument was presented to the adviser and panel of experts for comments and suggestions and the refinement of the said questionnaire. Changes were made and followed, a dry run of the instrument was conducted among selected respondents. With a positive response from the dry run, reliability testing of the instrument followed.

Reliability. This process was initiated after the content validity was established. The researcher employed the run-rerun method where copies of the same instrument were conducted twice to the same respondents observing an hour interval. The reliability was established using the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient and the result was shown in Appendix D.

Respondents

The respondents of the study were the rice producer farmers who are the beneficiaries of NIA irrigation. and who resides in the municipalities of the first district in Surigao del Sur. These municipalities are San Miguel and Tago.

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents

| Respondents | Population | Sample |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| San Miguel | 98 | 73 |
| Tago | 41 | 30 |
| Total | 139 | 103 |

Ethics and Data Gathering Procedure

Primary data were gathered from survey questionnaires. In gathering the secondary data, articles, published journals, magazines, newspapers, websites were used. Secondary data were in a form of interview from the key informants. After the questionnaire was validated and approved, the researcher hand carried the letter to the authorities requesting for the approval on the conduct of the survey to the farmers. To determine the respondents of the study, the researcher asked the list of farmers from the Irrigators Association Secretary.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed and interpreted with the following statistical tools:

Percentage and ranking. It was used to determine the profile of the respondents.

Weighted Mean. It is a parametric measure of central tendency appropriate for the data with corresponding weights

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Problems Encountered by the Local Farmers

The problem encountered most by the respondents is the presence of insect pest like black bug, stem borer, rice bug, worm maggot, which has a percentage of 98%. Agriculture is a major economic sector and it is particularly exposed to adverse natural events. Therefore, weather disturbances, insect pests and diseases are the determinants that may affect the crop production (Sharma, 2014)

Table 2 Problems Encountered by Local Farmers

| Problems Encountered | f | Percentage | Rank |
|--|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1. Calamity | 94 | 91% | 3 rd |
| 2. Diseases in rice | 100 | 97% | 2 nd |
| 3. Presence of Insect Pests | 101 | 98% | 1 st |
| 4. Variety of rice does not suit to the analysis of the soil | 3 | 3% | 6 th |
| 5. Marketing problem (low price) | 63 | 61% | 5 th |
| 6. Loan repayment | 66 | 64% | 4 th |
| TOTAL | 427 | | |

Loan repayment is also a problem encountered by the farmers which is 64%. Some of the respondents were not able to pay their loan because of insect pest and rice diseases. Poor loan repayment in developing country has

become a major problem in agricultural credit administration (Okerie, 2004). The main causes for loan repayment y clients were the delayed loan approval, inadequate financing, diversion loan, ineffective monitoring, market problems and poor weather conditions (Godio, 2012). The last problem encountered by the farmer is the variety of rice does not suit to the analysis of soil which is only 3%. Soil in the field must be analyzed first before planting to determine the nutrients needed by the soil so that the variety of rice will suit. Different crops need different type of soils, different types and amounts of nutrients, and different types and amounts of water. The amount of water required by the plant is also dependent on the growing season and the climate where it is grown. By selecting the right crop for the given soil conditions and climate, one can optimize yields and save water requirements for irrigation.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above findings, the following conclusions are drawn:

The demographic profile of the respondents was evident that most of the farmers are male and had a family. To sustain the basic needs of their family the farmer is engaged in farming. Male farmers are up to three times productive than female farmers. There are still problems being encountered by the respondents. These major problem that the respondents experienced is the presence of insect's pests and diseases in rice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are highly offered based on the findings and conclusions of the current study.

It is recommended that young individuals need to engage in farming and the farmers are recommended to be more knowledgeable in farming.

The farmers should organize an association that is connected to the Department of Agriculture so that the extensionist of the municipality can easily go to the area for further information and demonstration on how to grow crops more productive. Good variety of rice should be provided to have a better yield so that the farmers can pay to the bank.

It is also recommended that the Department of Agriculture should encourage and promote organic farming to attain balance ecological production management system that encourages and improves soil biological activity and biodiversity.

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