

AN IMPACT STUDY OF THE LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY EXTENSION SERVICES PROJECT IN MIAG-AO, ILOILO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sample survey technique was employed in the study. The sample consisted of one hundred ninety-one household heads who were picked at random from livestock/poultry raisers of the first six densely populated barangays in the project area.

The project was manned by five technical and four non-technical personnel with a budget of ₱132,960. The project had conducted 48 training programs dealing with five important aspects of livestock/poultry production and management. In these training programs 1,200 farmers were trained. A total of 2,837 visits made by BAI technicians were recorded for CY 1980. Within a six-year period (1975 to 1981) 1,314 farmers availed of credit assistance extended by BAI personnel through loans obtained from the Rural Bank of Miag-ao, basically used for cattle fattening. A total of 152 animals were dispersed to 138 recipients, some of whom were already granted ownership of the animals. Artificially inseminated swine totalled 1,485; these produced 6,349 offspring. Eighty-five farmers marketed their poultry/livestock produce, totalling 6,470 heads for CY 1980,

through the Livestock "Okasyon" Market. The present researches being conducted by the project are entitled: "A Study of the Artificial Insemination Scheme of Beef Cattle in Western Visayas" and "A Study on the Reproductive Performance of Cattle Serviced by the Dispersed Bull."

The respondents in this study were mostly male (67 per cent), 60 or more years of age, married, had elementary education and basically engaged in farming land which they themselves owned. The median total monthly income was ₱383.99.

Their over-all levels of aspiration were equally middle and high; educational and economic aspirations were high but social aspiration was relatively low. Middle level of organizational participation was reported and most of the respondents reported membership in some organizations in the community.

The majority (56 per cent) of the respondent households had one working member with median monthly income of ₱379.40 and monthly per capita income value of ₱75.96. The major portion of the total monthly expenditure of ₱553.72 (median value) was allotted to food (₱257.84) and to trans-

portation (P71.92). Their level of living was generally mid-standard (82.8 per cent).

Most of the respondents established their project between 1976 and 1979 with chickens as the most common animal raised; swine was the next common. Most raisers did not employ scientific methods, a fact that could be gathered from the usage of type of housing, plain water for cleaning purposes, range grazing and natural method of breeding.

Of the technical services extended by BAI personnel to the raisers, immunization was widely availed of by most respondents, followed by advice on feeding, sanitation and marketing. Project improvements such as reduced mortality and rapid weight gain were attributed to these BAI services. Technicians' visits were reported to be infrequent, done only once per year. Only eight per cent of the respondents claimed to have been trained in breeding and marketing aspects. It may be supposed that the respondents visited and trained were the users of scientific methods. Trainees on breeding or recipients of upgrading services, reported increases in litter size of their animals.

The established Accredited Livestock Market was gauged reported to be the most reasonable outlets, from the standpoint of pricing, as reported by 58 per cent of the raisers. The volume of animals sold

for CY 1980 totalled to 1,254 head of poultry and livestock. Of this total, 304 were swine; the rest were poultry. Another impact indicator of the project, aside from the total marketed livestock, was the revenue derived from the sales of the animals. Data showed that 73 per cent of the respondents had derived additional income from animal sales; most of them earned as much as P1,000 or even more. Ten liters of project-produced milk distributed free were consumed daily by 39 school children in two schools within the project area. This fact indicates another impact of the project.

Common problems brought out by informants deal with project funding; marketing, especially pricing; ; transportation facilities and insufficient assistance. These problems are common not only in BAI Livestock and Poultry Extension Project but in most projects which require material inputs and are income-generating. These may be attributed to lack of personnel; however, this was not clearly brought out in this study. Undoubtedly, some unfavorable generated effects and impacts generated in the project have been perceived by the project proponents and implementators. There apparently is a need to monitor and evaluate the progress of the project so that needed modifications can be made at various stages of project implementation.