

THE IMPACT OF THE USE OF SMALL RICE THRESHERS ON THE PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE OF IRRIGATED RICE FARMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, AKLAN

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The survey was done from October 25 to December 30, 1982 in order to analyze the impact of the use of small rice threshers on rice production of farmers and to determine the effects of rice threshers on the efficiency of threshing, quality of palay produced, employment and the frequency of cropping and turn-around period between harvesting and the preparation of land for the next cropping.

Results of the data gathered from 45 rice thresher users showed that the average per hectare yield of the respondents slightly increased after the use of threshers. The average increase in production was 3.02 cavans per hectare per cropping or an increase of 3 percent in production.

Efficiency-wise, mechanical threshing was more efficient than manual threshing, whether it be

“hampasan” method or feet trampling. The small rice threshers had an output of 31 or more cavans per hour on the average. The quality of palay threshed manually was the same as that threshed by mechanical threshing.

The majority of the respondents (80%) required 7 to 12 men to thresh their palay manually but needed only 4 to 6 persons for mechanical threshing. Analysis thus showed that 1 to 6 persons were displaced when a farmer uses the small rice thresher instead of manual threshing. Thirteen percent of the respondents reported the retention of the same number of laborers they had when they used manual threshing as when they used mechanical threshing. By doing so they had farm-related activities which before were neglected, attended to.