

**ESTABLISHING BASELINE INFORMATION FOR
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN PANAY
AND GUIMARAS, PHILIPPINES**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was conducted to establish baseline information for organic agriculture practitioners in Region VI. Specifically, the study aimed to A) identify the organic agriculture stakeholders in Panay and Guimaras; B) classify the stakeholders according to the following categories: 1) Advocates, 2) Practitioners, a) Input producers (specify), b) Organic crop/animal/special products producer/farmer, c) Organic products processors, d) Financiers, e) Organic products/inputs trader, f) Technology providers/developer; C) describe the personal and household profile of organic agriculture stakeholders in Panay and Guimaras; D) describe the farm profile and farming practices of organic agriculture practitioners in Panay and Guimaras; E) describe the marketing practices of organic crops and livestock practitioners in Panay and Guimaras; F) determine the accreditation status of the organic agriculture practitioner in Panay and Guimaras; and, G) determine the problems in organic farming encountered by the organic agriculture practitioners in Panay and Guimaras, their suggestions and recommendations to promote organic agriculture.

The study is purely descriptive and used the one-shot survey design. Data were gathered from 3,626 identified organic agriculture practitioners in the Panay and Guimaras using an instrument developed for this study. Complete enumeration of the organic agriculture practitioners was conducted through the assistance of the Department of Agriculture RFU 6, Provincial Agriculture Offices and Municipal/City Agriculture Offices. The interviewers were organized from the different provinces with the assistance of their respective Provincial Focal Persons for Organic

Agriculture. Data processing and generation of tables was done at the University Research Center of Central Philippine University by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17. Since this is a purely descriptive study, frequency distribution tables and means were the main statistical tools used which likewise served as the basis for analysis and interpretation of data.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the survey the following are concluded:

1. The respondents were predominantly from the Province of Iloilo, organic crop producers, had been into organic practice for more than three years, married, Roman Catholics, males, 50 years old and above, with high school or elementary level of education, farmers by major occupation, and earning less than Php 10,000 per month.

2. The respondents' households were composed of three to four members with a mean household size of 4.08, with one to two members of their households involved in organic agriculture and with a monthly household income of less than Php 10,000.00 with an average of 2.09 household members contributing to their household income.

3. The respondents have houses with floors mostly made of wood/bamboo or concrete/tiles; walls made of wood/bamboo, and roofs made of GI sheets. They have household utilities to include toilets, electricity, pipe-in water system and mobile phones; and household assets which included cooking pans and utensils, radio, television, and electric fans.

4. Only less than one-tenth of the respondents have a family business, and their business assets included motorcycle/tricycle, tools, retail stores, and farm machineries.

5. The major means of solid wastes disposal by the respondents was through composting and use of garbage pit while their wastewater disposal was open surface drainage.

6. The respondents generally owned their home lots and are members of farmers' organization.

7. The great bulk of the respondents have farms and were into farming with an average of 1.84 ha of landholdings; of which an average area of 1.5 ha was devoted to agriculture and of which an average of 0.80 ha was devoted to organic agriculture. They generally owned their farms at an average of 1.15 ha.

8. The respondents were generally into organic crops project in farms which were mostly lowland and rainfed with bananas and coconut as major crops.

9. In terms of land area planted, coffee had the highest mean area of 1.27 ha and followed by rice (1.09 ha). Highest mean production was in rice (2.8 tons) while bananas had the lowest (216.32 kg).

The respondents were earning less than Php 50,000 annually from organic crop production with an average of Php 17,424.64 per year from organic crop production.

10. The organic crop producer respondents used or practiced manual land preparation using small tools or animals, own produced seeds/planting materials, direct seeding or transplanting in crop establishment, hand weeding for weed control, no answer/no fertilization or home-made organic fertilizers and no answer or do not practice anything to control pests and diseases.

11. In post-harvest, the respondents practice manual harvesting, a combination of manual threshing and mechanical threshing, no answer or do not clean or blow their products, no answer or do not dry their products or do sun drying if necessary, and no answer or use no storage facility.

12. Those who were into organic livestock production were generally into native chicken production with an average of 9.3 heads of breeders, of which they were able to produce annually an average of 2,286.67 chicks, 996.67 pcs of eggs, and an average of 51.97 heads of chicken; and earn an average of Php 8,885.16 yearly.

13. The livestock raiser-respondents were raising their animals under semi-confinement mode, with housing consisted of ground or soil floors, bamboo slots walls and GI sheets roofing,

using home-made ration source out from their own produce, and not using any means of maintaining the health of livestock or give no answer.

14. There were only two special organic products producers, a honey and a mushroom producer with 5 colonies and 40 piles of production stocks, of which they were able to produce an average of 5.0 liters of honey and 560 kg of mushrooms and earn an average of P 13,225.00 per year from local individual consumers, households and institutional buyers.

15. There were a total of 13 organic products processors, mostly processing food products which are banana-based with an average production of 791.42 kg and an income of not more than Php 10,000 per year. Their raw materials are mostly bananas, of not more than 10 kg, from their own produce, not certified as organic and considered as very adequate.

The organic products processors considered local individual customers as their market, with organic products processing mostly on-farm, and considered as an individual undertaking.

16. The 82 organic inputs producers mostly produced concoctions and vermicast at an average production of 204.35 li and 1,005.07 kg, respectively; with average annual earnings of Php 16,360.00. All were using plants/leaves as raw materials, 1,047.81 kg on the average, from their own produce, not certified as organic, and adequate.

The organic inputs producers identified local individual customers as their market, with production largely carried out on-farm, as an individual undertaking, and carried out by an average of 5.2 workers.

17. The 13 traders of organic products/inputs mostly trade organic inputs at a volume of more than 100 units (kg), largely from their own produce, earning an average of Php 25,569.23 annually, with individual farmers/producers or associations/organizations as markets, with on-farm trading stations, operated as an individual enterprise and involve an average of 9.6 workers.

18. The 13 organic agriculture financiers were mostly financing organic crop production by providing individual/personal

loan, payable after harvest/production, and earning an average of Php 25,569.23 annually from their financing activity which is basically an individual undertaking.

19. The 23 organic agriculture-related technology developers/providers, mostly on concoctions and vermicomposting; mostly provided free of charge, hence, reported no earnings or provided no answer. These are mostly farm-based and classified as an individual undertaking.

20. The 40 organic agriculture advocates were mostly in organic crop production advocacy, in their individual capacity and with self-funded advocacies mostly carried out through various means.

21. The respondents market their products as fresh or live products, on a not very regular frequency, with very variable volume and prices depending on the nature of the product, within their municipalities, usually in the public market and on a wholesale basis.

22. Almost the same proportion of respondents claimed that there is an organic section in their market and there is no organic section in their market and more than one-third of them believed that there is a need for an organic market in the municipality.

23. The prices of the products are mostly jointly agreed by both the seller and the buyer or set by the buyer, and the most usual buyers are the traders and direct consumers.

24. Most of the respondents did not give any answer as to their accreditation status, and more than one third admitted that they are not accredited.

25. The most common problems encountered by the respondents included insect pests, diseases, lack of supply of organic inputs, capital/financing, and low production. Given the problems, they recommended more training on farm technology/transfer, provision of capital, provision of organic inputs, provision of Farm-to-market roads and continuous practice of organic agriculture.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of the survey, the following are recommended:

1. The fact that the respondents were predominantly from the Province of Iloilo implies that there are more practitioners in Iloilo than in other provinces. It is therefore recommended that more efforts should be made to encourage more practitioners in other provinces.

2. Given the relatively low monthly household income of the households, deliberate efforts should be made by concerned agencies to improve the household income maybe by encouraging them to go into family business and providing them with necessary assistance.

3. Since not all of the respondents' farm holdings were devoted to organic agriculture, realizing the regional target for conversion to organic agriculture can be easier realized by encouraging and supporting the present practitioners to convert their remaining farm areas to organic agriculture, specifically for organic rice production.

4. Since a few respondents (3.5% to 4.3%) who claimed to be organic crop practitioners are still using chemicals to control weeds and pests and diseases and inorganic fertilizers, efforts must be made by concerned agencies to ensure that production practices of organic practitioners should really conform with the prescribed organic production protocols. This should be clearly emphasized in the IEC materials and extension activities to promote organic agriculture.

5. The integration of organic livestock production like native chicken production is strongly recommended to make use of organic agriculture by-products and their animal wastes as components of composts while at the same time augmenting the income of the farmer practitioners.

6. Since a number of respondents (3.3% to 4.4%) who claimed to be organic livestock practitioners are still using commercial feeds and antibiotics, efforts must be made by concerned agencies to ensure that production practices of organic

livestock practitioners should really conform to the prescribed organic production protocols. This should be clearly emphasized in the IEC materials and extension activities to promote organic agriculture.

7. The production of special organic products like mushrooms and honey, organic products processing and organic inputs production should be encouraged as complementary activities and additional sources of income.

8. The presence of traders and financiers in organic agriculture indicates the need for these services and support but if handled by private individuals would have its negative impact on the producers and the consumers. This implies the intervention of the government in these support services.

9. The presence and operation of organic agriculture-related technology developers/providers and advocates should be encouraged and supported by the government, specifically the organic agriculture program, as these are largely self-financed and provided free of charge.

10. There is a need to standardized products as bases for pricing and to come up with standardized prices to guide both the producers and the consumers or organic products.

11. There is a need to establish an organic section in the municipal public market as mandated by RA 10068 to support and facilitate the production and marketing of organic products.

12. Since only very few of the practitioners are accredited, a mechanism for more practical modes of accreditations, requirements, and costs wise should be considered.

13. Given the common problems encountered by the respondents like insect pests, diseases, lack of supply of organic inputs, capital/financing and low production, their recommendations like more training on farm technology/transfer, provision of capital, provision of organic inputs, provision of farm-to-market roads and continuous practice of organic agriculture may be considered.

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