

**ASSESSMENT OF BRONTISPA LONGISSIMA CONTROL
MEASURES IN ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**

A Special Problem

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ABSTRACT

DAGATAN, DIONEDES P., JH Cerilles State College Dumingag Campus, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, "ASSESSMENT OF BRONTISPA LONGISSIMA CONTROL MEASURES IN ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR", A Special Problem.

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The study generally aimed to assess Brontispa longissima control measures in Zamboanga del Sur. Specifically, the study aimed to 1) find out the socio demographic profile of the respondents 2) know the farming practices adopted by the respondents 3) assess the degree of damage of Brontispa longissima 4) determine the control measures undertaken to support/control the infestation and 5) identify the problems encountered by the respondents and its suggested solutions.

Results of the study revealed that the highest number of coconut farmers are 61 years and above. This shows that coconut farming still involves old/matured people because it does not entail much hard labor. Majority of the farmer respondents are males, elementary and college graduate, Cebuano, and greater majority are Catholics.

Aside from coconut farming, respondents have other sources of income such as employment from private and government agencies, raise animals and plant other crops for family consumption.

Respondents have an annual income ranging from Php 20,000-60,000 and majority have small income coming from other sources. Almost one-half of the respondents own 1-3 hectares land and generally landowner. Respondents claimed that aside from coconut, they plant rice and corn but less mentioned camote, cassava, and vegetables.

Most of the farmer respondents have 3 hectares and above farm size and their farm product are processed into copra and few are engaged in coco sap production.

Most of the respondents still practiced the traditional cycle of harvesting their coconuts every three months and did not apply fertilizer.

Coconut farmers are cognizant to the damage of *Brontispa longissima* and others do not know the prevalent pest and diseases attacking coconuts. Furthermore, *Brontispa longissima* attacked at any growth stages of coconut and more on the bearing age of 4-5 years old and above and 11-20 trees are infested in the area of some respondents.

Farmer respondents administered varied control measures for *Brontispa longissima* in all growth stages of coconut like mechanical control (pruning and burning), chemical control, and biological control through spraying of Entomopathogens. Greater number of respondents administered inoculation of parasitoid from Philippine Coconut Authority Laboratory. Greater majority of farmers adopted the use of monitoring method of inspection and few monitored through identification on the occurrence of *Brontispa longissima*. Some farmers applied control measures by determining the threshold level of infestation; others undertook immediate action and/or consulted a technician.

Serious problem encountered by farmers is the high cost of fertilizer and chemicals followed by pest and disease management, lack of access to technology, and quarantine not so strict.

Most effective solutions suggested are as follows: proper training and seminar, and develop awareness and capability.