

FARMING SYSTEM OF SUBANEN IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

SPECIAL PROBLEM

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ABSTRACT

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This study generally aimed to assess the farming system of the Subanen in the province of Zamboanga del Sur, in the areas where the Subanen communities are mostly concentrated such as in the towns of Lakewood, Midsalip, Sominot, Josefina and Dumingag. Specifically, the study aimed to 1) determine the socio demographic profile of the respondents, 2) determine the traditional beliefs, indigenous knowledge and practices, 3) find out the farming practices adopted by the respondents, 4) find out the effects of their practices, 5) verify the support services they have availed and, 6) verify the problems met and its suggested solutions.

The study reveal that majority of the respondents are males, married, age ranging from 41 to 50 years old, and in the primary level of education whose income is below 1,000.00 pesos monthly.

Most of the young Subanen farmers have already adopted the modern way of farming and seldom practice the traditional,

indigenous farming system except that most of them are still getting some food and forest products from the forest.

The farmer respondents practice monoculture by planting corn most of the time but sometimes they engage in crop rotations, multiple cropping, contour farming, organic farming by using organic materials, and planting trees along the boundaries to conserve natural environment. Due to limited resources and capital most of the farmers used bolo to clean their farm thus limiting the expansion of their farm causing limited production to uplift their economic conditions.

Subanen farmers use different seed varieties in planting crops or corn to ensure steady supply of fresh seed. They also acquire traditional ways of identifying soils whether its characteristics are suitable to different types of crops and their workability.

Subanen farmers are beleaguered with complex burdens and problems such as lack of farm implements, no capital, far from market to sell their products, no farm to market road, no government agency's support, sometimes conflict among the tribe, and leaders of the community, and peace and order situation.