SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE ADOPTION OF TRICHOGRAMMA EVANESCENS AGAINST ASIAN CORN BORER

A Special Problem

Submitted to the Faculty of the

Graduate School JH CERILLES STATE COLLEGE-DUMINGAG CAMPUS

Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur

In Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

MASTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Agricultural Extension)

DANILO M. BENITEZ

April 2010

ABSTRACT

BENITEZ, DANITO M., March 2010, JH Cerilles State College Dumingag Campus, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur. "SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE ADOPTION OF TRICHOGRAMMA EVANESCENS AGAINST ASIAN CORN BORER", A Special Problem.

Major adviser: **Prof. Teonita Y. Velasco**

This study generally aimed to assess the socio-economic impact on the adoption of trichogramma evanescens against Asian corn borer in the four municipalities of Salug Valley, namely; Mahayag, Molave, Ramon Magsaysay and Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur. Specifically, the study aimed to (1) determine the socio demographic profile of the respondents, (2) determine the cultural management practices of the farmers, (3) determine the benefits derived from trichogramma technology and (4) identify the problems encountered by the farmers in adopting Trichogramma evanescens against corn borer.

Results of the study revealed that majority of the farmers are males, married, age ranging from 51 to 60 years old, Cebuano and college graduates. Aside from corn production, farmers have other sources of income whose annual gross income ranges from P20,000 to P 220,000. Most of the farmers are land owners with 2-

3 hectares. Corn is planted with the permanent or main crop and planted either traditional, OPV or hybrid corn seeds with two croppings per year. Data further revealed that corn borer is the most prevalent pest attacking corn. Trichogramma technology is an effective practice in controlling Asian corn borer than chemical control.

Majority of the farmers have availed Trichogramma evanescens thrice a year and have been adopting this technology from 2005 to present through the Department of Agriculture, Regional Crop Protection Center (DA, RCPC) in cash basis at P2.00 per trichocard, however, other farmers have availed the trichocards for free.

Furthermore, farmers found out that the best time of application is early in the morning.

Economically, farmers realize that adopting Trichogramma evanescens against asian corn borer lessens labor cost, reduces chemical expenses, acquire farm implements and acquire home appliances and improves the economic condition of the community making corn farming profitable.

Furthermore, farmers confirmed that adopting Trichogramma evanescens against Asian corn borer is advantageous. Trichocards are cheaper than insecticide, extremely low labor cost requirements, no requirements for investments of farm implements, consumption. environmental friendly and safe for human.

Lack of supply of trichocards and lack of knowledge of the technology are the most common problems encountered by farmers.