

February 21, 1938

Mr. Manuel de Villa  
Sariaya, Tayabas

Dear Manuel:

When I came to Sariaya, on the occasion of the earthquake of August 20, 1937, I was told by several people of Laguna and Tayabas that the coconut crop would be diminished on account of the earthquake. It is time now, six months after the earthquake, to prove or disprove such statement and belief. Consequently I would appreciate to know from you, the following:

1. Is it true that within fifteen days after the earthquake, small nuts fell from the trees? Were the fallen small nuts many?
2. Do you notice now, in the crop of December and February, any remarkable decrease in the crop? For instance, a proprietor of Laguna usually collects 80000 coconuts in October; he got only 60000 in December; in February he obtained only 32000. Does the same happen to your plantations? Could you furnish me with number and statistics to substantiate our statements? Do you know of any proprietor of Sariaya, to whom the same thing happens? What are the numbers?
3. If there any decrease, do you think that the decrease is due mainly and principally to the earthquake, or you think that the cause of the decrease is drought, or high winds, or pests or insects. I would like to be enlightened by your experience and that of other prominent and intelligent people of Sariaya. I would appreciate your statistics and remarks.

With best wishes to your sister and brothers, I remain

Very respectfully,

MIGUEL SELGA  
Director, Weather Bureau