

Gender Differential Roles in Organic Agriculture (OA) Adoption in Selected Municipalities in the Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 intensified initiatives to promote organic agriculture. Many assume that the Act affects only males because they assume that farmers are males. However, women farmers have also been active food producers and family providers. They may have different capacities, needs and limitations, but they are covered by the Act. Does gender influence the adoption and success of OA?¹ As part of the project assessing the factors influencing organic farming, this paper focuses on gender issues. There are 180 respondents, 90 practitioners and 90 non-practitioners from Sta. Josefa, Agusan Del Sur, Braulio E. Dujali, Davao Del Norte and Victorias City, Negros Occidental. Survey interviews and participatory tools were employed. Data were gender disaggregated and descriptive statistics were used. Access and control of agricultural resources and benefits, decision making, farm labor, technological constraints and demands, and awareness and perception vary by gender. Female farmers benefit from paid work, participation in projects and credit program. However, male farmers control most resources and benefits. For male farmers, farming activities are not joint decisions. Only female practitioners are involved in backyard production. Both genders share farm labor for commercial production. Female practitioners are more vulnerable to climate change though. Nevertheless, ensuring gender balance is crucial for sustainable adoption and inclusive development of organic agriculture in the country.

Keywords: gender; differential roles; organic agriculture; adoption; inclusive development

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