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SURVEY AND IDENTIFICATION OF NATURAL
ENEMIES ASSOCIATED WITH CROP PESTS
IN MULTIPLE CROPPING SYSTEM

THESIS

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**SURVEY AND IDENTIFICATION OF NATURAL
ENEMIES ASSOCIATED WITH CROP PESTS
IN MULTIPLE CROPPING SYSTEM**

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ABSTRACT

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A survey was conducted at the four coffee-based modules of the Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura (SAKA) from September 1996 to February 1997. This study aimed to collect and identify the natural enemies associated with the crop pests in coffee-based farming system and to determine the level of infestation of naturally occurring bio-con agents on major pests of crops in coffee-based farming systes.

The common natural enemies associated with different crops in coffee-based farming system were as follows: coffee - *Micraspis* sp, black coccinelid, *Rhyzobius* sp, *Argiope catennulata*, *Araneus inustus*, praying mantis, and unidentified pupal parasite; Banana - *Oxyopes javanus*, *Araneus inustus*, *Brachymeria* sp, and unidentified egg parasite, Guayabano - praying mantis, *Araneus inustus*, and *Nephila maculata*; Lychee - *Phidippus* sp, *Araneus inustus* and praying mantis; Lanzones - *Micraspis* sp , and *Phidippus* sp; Coconut - earwig, *Nephila maculata*; Black pepper - *Argiope catennulata*, *Phidippus* sp and *Araneus inustus*.

These natural enemies where present in the field in various times of the year. They were observed to be associated with crop pests such as: coffee leaffolder, tussock moth, hemispherical scale, whitelouse scale, mealybug, flea beetle, whitefly, guayabano moth, leafhoppers, and common cutworm.

A total of thirteen (13) arthropods were recorded as natural enemies associated with crop pests in coffee-based farming systems. Three belonged to order Coleoptera, 3 to Hymenoptera, 1 to Mantodea, 5 to Araneae and 1 to Dermaptera.

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INTRODUCTION

Crop diversification does not necessarily mean that the crops are free from insect pest infestation. The leaves, stems and fruits of the crops are destroyed by pests, resulting to reduced quantity and low quality of harvest crops. Farmers find a way of controlling insect pests through the application of toxic pesticides. This pesticide application, however, is hazardous to men, animals and entire environment. The continuous application of toxic pesticides in controlling major crop pests tends to destroy natural balance and consequently, produces more problem. Where there is abuse and improper