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ECONOMIC EFFECT OF 'KASAKALIKASAN' PROGRAM
ON THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME
OF RICE FARMERS IN CAVITE

THESIS

JOEL D. LUBIGAN

College of Economics, Management
and Development Studies

CAVITE STATE UNIVERSITY

Indang, Cavite

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**ECONOMIC EFFECT OF "KASAKALIKASAN" PROGRAM
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OF RICE FARMERS IN CAVITE**

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JOEL D. LUBIGAN
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ABSTRACT

LUBIGAN, JOEL D. Economic Effect of KASAKALIKASAN Program on the Productivity and Income of Rice Farmers in Cavite. B.S. Thesis. Bachelor of Science in Business Management major in Economics. Cavite State University. Indang, Cavite. April 2003. Adviser: Mrs. Ma. Soledad M. Lising.

This study was conducted for the purpose of determining the economic effect of KASAKALIKSAN program on the productivity and income of rice farmers in Cavite. Specifically, it aimed to: 1) describe the socio-economic characteristics of rice farmers in Cavite; 2) describe the farm practices employed by the rice farmers before and after the program; 3) compare the income generated by rice farmers before and after the program; 4) identify the problems encountered by rice farmers before and after the program; 5) determine the economic effect of the KASAKALIKASAN program on the productivity and income of rice farmers in Cavite.

The study was conducted in three towns of Cavite namely: Gen. Trias, Naic and Bacoor. KASAKALIKASAN program had covered the identified municipalities from 1999 to 2000. A total of 90 rice farmer – respondents who completed the course represented the sample.

Generally, the age of the respondents ranged from 21 to 82 years, with an average of 52 years. Thirty-three percent of the respondents were able to finish elementary education. They had five to seven dependents with an average of five dependents. Forty-four percent of the respondents were lessee. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents had 23 years of farming experience. They had an average of two hectares of land devoted to farming as their main source of income.

The farm practices employed by the rice farmer – respondents were land preparation, water irrigation, planting, fertilization, weeding, pest and diseases control and harvesting before and after the implementation of the program. Land preparation process included land clearing, plowing, harrowing, raking, leveling of the soil and land cleaning as for planting preparations. The National Irrigation Authority supplied the water needed for irrigation of almost all of the farmers. All respondents adopted one method of applying fertilizer which was the broadcasting. Fertilizers are applied twice every cropping season. Majority of the respondents control weeds in their farm using herbicides. Weeding is done as the need arises. Pests were identified as important constraint to achieve higher yield. The common insects found in the rice farms were leafhoppers, grasshoppers, birds, snails, worms, spiders and rice bugs. It was interesting to note that 26 percent of the respondents were not using chemicals in controlling pest. In general, they were high adaptors of the farm practices learned in the program. They harvest once to thrice a year depending upon the availability of irrigation. They consume some of their harvests and sold some at prices based on quality.

Findings showed that there was an increase in the average farm production among rice farmers after the implementation of KASAKALIKASAN program. The level of production ranged from 71 to 120 cavans per harvest with an average of 74 cavans before and 83 cavans after the implementation of the program.

The average income of farmers before the implementation of the program was P6,373.3. After implementation of the program the average income increased to P9,160.60.

Averages and means were used to analyze the data on farm productivity and income of the respondents. The results showed that the level of production and income of the rice farmers increased after the program.

In order to determine the effect of agricultural program and trainings, the Department of Agriculture should conduct continuous monitoring and evaluation. Secondly, the government should provide sufficient irrigation water to increase farmers' production. Third, all rice farmers should exercise the use of natural or organic fertilizers and IPM to promote non-insecticide approach to pest control.

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ECONOMIC EFFECT OF “KASAKALIKASAN” PROGRAM ON THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME OF RICE FARMERS IN CAVITE ^{1/}

Joel D. Lubigan

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INTRODUCTION

Rice is the most important food crop in the country. Its significance as a critical political commodity prompted the government to strive for self-sufficiency since the early seventies.

The Department of Agriculture is the lead implementing agency of the Kasaganaan ng Sakahan at Kalikasan (KASAKALIKASAN) or the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Order No. 126. The long-term goal of KASAKALIKASAN is to make IPM the standard approach to crop husbandry and pest management in major rice, corn, and vegetable growing areas of the Philippines (KASAKALIKASAN Manual, 1996).

Insecticides use among Asian rice farmers seems to be based on perceived needs and perhaps fear, rather than real needs. Indigenous attitudes, such as a belief that all insects, particularly worms, are harmful has tended to make farmers becomes victims of