

ASSESSMENT OF DRAGON FRUIT INDUSTRY IN CAVITE

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JOY M. BAES
JONARD D. JUNIO
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ABSTRACT

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The study was conducted at dragon fruit farms in Amadeo, Alfonso, Gen. Aguinaldo and Indang, Cavite from January to April 2017 to assess the dragon fruit industry in Cavite. Specifically, this study aimed to: 1. assess the present status and condition of production of dragon fruit goods in terms of quantity, methods, materials, machine and manpower; 2. identify the activities involved in postharvest of the dragon fruit; 3. determine the problems and factors that affect the dragon fruit production; 4. project the demand for the dragon fruit goods through the years; and 5. suggest possible recommendations in order to improve production of dragon fruit goods.

The actual registered farms in each municipality were obtained from their respective municipal offices. Data were gathered through interviews, use of distributed survey questionnaire, and observation of the actual areas. Pareto analysis and statistical straight line method were used to analyze the data.

The participants of this study were 20 farmers residing in Amadeo, Alfonso, Gen. Aguinaldo and Indang. Four municipalities were involved in cultivating and manufacturing dragon fruit goods in Cavite. Indang has the highest output turnover of dragon fruits in the province.

Through interviews and surveys, problems and causes of postharvest losses in the dragon fruit industry were determined. The causes of postharvest losses are pests and diseases, under/over maturity, and mechanical damage. As for the major problems

encountered in the industry, it includes limited supply of materials (seasonal), lack of support from the government, phase of growth, and lack of information and training.

For the next years, dragon fruit is expected to raise its demand and grow in its industry. But for some processed products, the demand is depleting. Upon applying the recommendations generated, dragon fruit industry, including its processed products, may emerge as the most cultivated and processed crop in the fruit industry.

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