## ECONOMIC PROFILE OF KAONG FARMERS IN SELECTED UPLAND TOWNS OF CAVITE

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## **ABSTRACT**

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The study was conducted to determine the economic profile of *kaong* farmers in selected upland towns of Cavite. Specifically, this study aimed to: 1) describe the socioeconomic profile of *kaong* farmers; 2) describe the profile of farms; 3) determine the production practices performed by *kaong* farmers; 4) determine the marketing practices performed by *kaong* farmers; and 5) identify the problems encountered by *kaong* farmers.

The data were gathered in the different barangays of Indang, Alfonso, Mendez, and Magallanes Cavite who have the most number of farmers engaged in *kaong* farming. A total of 80 *kaong* farmers were interviewed.

To determine the economic profile of *kaong* farmers in selected upland towns of Cavite, frequency, mean, and percentage was used in the study.

Based on the results of the survey, the average age of farmers was 54 years old.

The participants had an average of 22 years of *kaong* farming experience. They had an estimated annual income from *kaong* farming of P7,744.19 while from overall farming activity an income of P24,648.18.

Most of the *kaong* farmers were landowners with an average farm size of  $13,428m^2$ . All participants reported that *kaong* farming was an important activity because it served as a source of their additional income.

Majority (70%) were not really planting *kaong* because *kaong* grew naturally in the land brought by *alamid* and other animals. The average number of years before *kaong* 

plant bear fruits was 14 years and it would take one year before *kaong* fruits can be harvested.

Ninety-one percent of the participants sold their products in their house. The commonly used methods in selling the products were on wholesale basis and paid through cash basis.

Only three participants encountered problems in *kaong* farming. The problems were low price and there was only higher demand during December, and the blacking of sweet meat which can be sold in a minimum price.

Farmers should consider the importance of *kaong* farming because it could be a good source of income in the coming years. They should be encouraged to produce more products from *kaong*. There were already trainings and seminars being conducted by the Sugar Palm Research, Information and Trade Center (SPRINT) located at Cavite State University Main Campus at Indang, Cavite through which the *kaong* farmers in the upland towns of Cavite could be invited to attend for them to learn and gather more knowledge of producing products out of *kaong*.