

**STATUS OF KAONG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY IN CAVITE: A
BASIS FOR TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT**

THESIS

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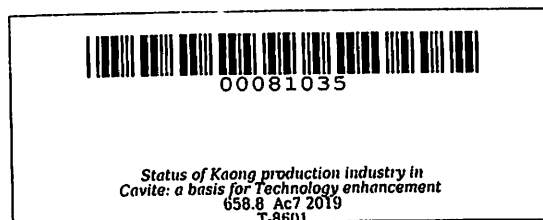
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TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT**

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ABSTRACT

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The study was mainly conducted to determine the status of kaong industry in Cavite. Specifically, this was conducted to describe the demographic profile of the kaong farmers; describe the production process of kaong products like kaong sugar and kaong vinegar; determine the equipment and methods used in the production process of kaong products; determine the technology enhancements of kaong production in terms of equipment and method used; and determine the links between the farmer and technology developers in kaong production.

The kaong farmers are male, married, in their 50s and attained secondary education. Most of them are engaged in Kaong Vinegar production. Results showed that not all farmers started farming with kaong as their major crop and majority of them lived in Indang, Alfonso and Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite.

The age of the kaong trees ranges from 2 to 50 years with an average of 17 years and most of the farmers have 1 to 5 trees. The land area devoted for kaong production ranges from 5 to 166,000 square meters and more than half of the respondents or 78.1 percent do the harvesting by themselves.

Majority of the respondents or 84.4 percent harvested kaong sap twice every day for kaong vinegar and 5.2 percent harvested kaong sap once for kaong sugar. Most of them used "*pagkakarit*" as their manner of harvesting sap. The volume of harvested sap ranges from 1 to 100 liters per day for kaong vinegar and 6 liters for kaong sugar.

The respondents devoted 6 to 24 hours for kaong vinegar and 8 hours for kaong sugar in harvesting the sap every day. Most of the respondents or 60.4 percent stored their sap for about 3 to 4 weeks to become kaong vinegar and packed

them or 5.2 percent cooked kaong sap for 3 hours to become kaong sugar and cool it for 10 minutes. It takes 30 minutes for kaong sugar to become granulated.

Most of the respondents or 60.4 percent used "*tibig*" in tapping the inflorescence of kaong tree and used bottles in collecting the sap. Most of them used strainer and fishnet in filtering the sap and stored it in "*tapayan*" to become kaong vinegar. In cooking the kaong sap, 5.2 percent of the respondents used "*kawa*" and an open-air method in cooling the kaong sugar. "*Sandok*" was used in grinding or pounding the kaong sugar, resealable pack in packing kaong sugar and weighing scale in measuring the product by 5.2 percent of the farmers.

Producing kaong vinegar and kaong sugar are good sources of income but the link between the developers and the farmers are not yet established.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
ABSTRACT.....	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xiii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiv
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Statement of the Problem.....	2
Objective of the Study.....	3
Significance of the Study.....	3
Time and Place of the Study.....	4
Scope and Limitation of the Study.....	4
Definition of Terms.....	4
Conceptual Framework.....	6
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	7
METHODOLOGY.....	39
Research Design.....	39
Sources of Data.....	39
Participants of the Study.....	40
Sampling Techniques.....	40
Data Gathered.....	40
Statistical Treatment of Data.....	41
RESULT AND DISCUSSION.....	42
Socio-demographic characteristics of the farm owner.....	42

Status of kaong production.....	44
Pre-marketing activities of kaong vinegar.....	47
Pre-marketing activities of kaong sugar	50
Equipment used in kaong vinegar production	51
Equipment used in kaong sugar production	53
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION.....	55
Summary.....	55
Conclusion.....	56
Recommendation.....	57
REFERENCES.....	59
APPENDICES.....	62

LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
1 Distribution of kaong Farmers in Cavite.....	40
2 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Kaong Farmers.....	43
3 Status of kaong production in Cavite	46
4 Pre- marketing activities of kaong vinegar	49
5 Equipment used in kaong vinegar production.....	53

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures		Page
1	Conceptual Framework of the study	6
2	Process flow used for making kaong vinegar	15

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix		Page
1	Adviser and technical critic request form.....	62
2	Title approval sheet.....	65
3	Request for final defense	67
4	Letter for each municipality.....	69
5	Letter for each barangay.....	73
6	Survey questionnaire.....	91
7	Routing slip.....	96

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INTRODUCTION

Sugar Palm (*Arenga Pinnata*) or more commonly, known as *kaong* or “irok” in local dialect is one of the non-wood forest products (NWPs) in the country (Reyes, 2013). Kaong is abundant in Luzon (Rizal, Cavite, Bataan, Laguna and Tayabas), Polili, Biliran and Mindanao; and in some afforested areas. Kaong almost vanished in Cavite but flourishes in the town of Indang that provide nature preserve to the trees. It is one of the country's most important crops. It is one of the sources of local livelihoods and additional investment considered by the farmers (Martini, Endri et al, 2012). Thus, it is slowly gaining attention due to the additional incomes its products provide to marginal farmers.

Kaong Industry is well known especially in Indang, a first class municipality that is centrally located in the highlands of Cavite and tagged as the “Kaong Capital of the Philippines” because of the countless kaong trees that thrive along its waterways with a lofty 380 m (1247 ft) elevation with a lush rolling terrain bisected by numerous creeks and streams that are fed by over 80 springs, is the ideal place for kaong trees to flourish its tributaries (Urlanda, 2015).