CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS AND ADAPTATION PRACTICES OF PINEAPPLE FARMERS IN SELECTED AREAS OF CAVITE

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

PANGANIBAN, CHRISTIAN FRANK S. and PERDITO, RHON JAY P. Climate Change Awareness and Adaptation Practices of Pineapple Farmers in Selected Areas of Cavite. Undergraduate Thesis. Bachelor of Science in Economics, major in Business Economics. Cavite State University. Indang, Cavite. April 2015 Adviser: Dr. Nelia C. Cresino.

A study was conducted in selected areas of Cavite to describe the socio-economic characteristics of pineapple farmers; determine the characteristics of the farm; identify the level of awareness of pineapple farmers on climate change; identify the sources of information of pineapple farmers on climate change; determine the effects of climate change in pineapple farms as perceived by the pineapple producers; determine the adaptation practices of pineapple farmers to climate change; and identify recommendations to improve the status of pineapple farmers in Cavite.

A total of 170 participants composed the samples of the study. Data were gathered through personal interviews with pineapple farmers in selected areas of Cavite, namely: Silang, Tagaytay City, Alfonso, and Indang from October 2014 to February 2015. Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency count, mean, percentage, range, and ranking were used in presenting and analyzing the data gathered.

Results of the study revealed that the participants generally belonged to the middle age bracket, male, married, and majority were high school graduates. The participants' had an average household size of five and earned an average annual income of P186,606 from pineapple and P110,526 from other sources. The participants had an average experience of 23 years in pineapple farming, most of them were owner-operators, used conventional farming method, and used an average of 0.89 hectare for pineapple production.

Concept such as changes in weather and climatic conditions topped the perception of the participants on climate change. The participants were moderately aware of the man-made and natural causes of climate change, and the effects of climate change in the farms and households.

Information on climate change were mostly learned by the participants from televisions and they had limited access to agricultural extension officers.

The participants mentioned the following effects of climate change: decrease in the quality of pineapple, changes in farming practices, increase in the presence of pests and diseases, decrease in the volume of production, and increase intensity of weather disturbances.

In order to withstand climate change, the farmers changed their planting and harvesting practices, adjusted their farm size, practiced intercropping and some participants opted to shift to non-farming activities.

Efficient provisions and implementations of extensive agricultural programs of the government were emphasized for the improvement of the status of pineapple farmers.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS AND ADAPTATION PRACTICES OF PINEAPPLE FARMERS IN SELECTED AREAS OF CAVITE

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INTRODUCTION

Climate change or global warming has been the "buzz" word for years. By definition, climate change pertains to the changes in climate system over a period of time. This includes both natural (e.g. circulation patterns, El Niño phenomena) and anthropogenic (greenhouse gas emissions) causes. These processes result in the production of heat trapping greenhouse gases released in the atmosphere of which carbon dioxide (CO2) makes the largest percentage. Changes in climate translate to temperature rise affecting the planet's various dynamic processes. A change in climate affects ecosystems especially the agricultural sector of an economy (Capili et al., 2005).

Agriculture is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Higher temperatures eventually reduce yields of desirable crops, while encouraging weeds and pests proliferation. Changes in precipitation patterns increase the likelihood of short-run crop failures and the decline in long-run production. Although there will be gains in some