



## ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN WATER GOVERNANCE OF IRRIGATOR'S ASSOCIATIONS IN THE STA. CRUZ RIVER WATERSHED, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES

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**ABSTRACT** – Accountability is essential in water governance to ensure the sustainability of water to irrigate rice farms. Transparency, on the other hand, is vital in any association in obtaining trust and confidence among the members. This descriptive research on water governance in Sta. Cruz and Pila, Laguna focused on the accountability and transparency of the officers of the Irrigators' Association (IA). Methods used include household interview, key informant interview, review of documents, and observation. Stratified sampling was utilized wherein the respondents were randomly selected. Data were described using descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution and percentages. Majority of the respondents perceive the IA in-charge of the irrigation system in their area to be responsible. Although different problems arise, it is good to note that these problems are addressed immediately. Majority has trust and confidence on the IA in-charge of their irrigation system, have sense of ownership to the irrigation system, and are aware of the existing policies of the IA on water governance. It was also perceived that the policies were appropriately designed for the IA and that the policies are beneficial to the members. Furthermore, most of the members are updated with the current information concerning the irrigation system.

*Keywords: Transparency, accountability, water governance*



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