



ORGANIC FARMERS IN THE PHILIPPINES: CHARACTERISTICS, KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES

Gloria Luz M. Nelson^{1*}, Girlie Nora A. Abrigo¹, Rowena P. De
Guzman¹, Joyce A. Ocampo and Lucille Elna P. De Guzman¹

¹University of the Philippines Los Baños, College, Laguna

*Corresponding author: gmnelson@up.edu.ph

ABSTRACT – Non-chemical use of farm inputs in organic farming can help alleviate problems of soil infertility as well as pollution in water and air. Organic farming, although sustainable may not be an attractive alternative to conventional farming because of low yield in the earlier years of adoption in spite of its being relatively laborious. Knowing the characteristics, knowledge, attitudes and practices of the organic farmers are necessary to promote organic farming in the Philippines. The survey of the 326 organic farmers in the nine provinces in the Philippines showed that the median age of organic farmers is 51. Forty-three percent are high school educated. More than three-fourths of the farmers have an average farm size of less than 2.5 hectares. Seventy-five percent were practicing organic farming, even before the Organic Agriculture became a law in 2010. The knowledge of the organic farmers on three aspects, namely: organic farming, environment and cost/benefits of organic agriculture (OA) were assessed while the attitude was likewise assessed on organic farming and its cost/benefits using a 5-point scale. Davao farmers have the highest mean knowledge and attitude scores on both OA and cost and benefit aspects. Cebu farmers, on the other hand, have the highest mean knowledge score on the environmental aspect. It was found that older farmers are more knowledgeable than the younger farmers on the aspect of benefit and cost of OA. Educational attainment affects positively the knowledge level on OA and on the environmental aspects. Selling OA products was found to increase their knowledge of the benefits and cost of OA but decreases their knowledge about the environment. The attitude of the farmers on all the three aspects was generally positive. The most common organic farming practices are composting and intercropping. Crafting trainings should be customized by province and should take into consideration the evidence-based characteristics, knowledge, attitude and practices of organic farmers to increase and sustain the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines.

Keywords: attitude, characteristics, knowledge, organic farming, Philippines, practices



JOURNAL OF NATURE STUDIES
(formerly Nature's Bulletin)
Online ISSN: 2244-5226

To cite this paper: Nelson, G.L.M., Abrigo, G.N.A., De Guzman, R.P., Ocampo, J.A. & De Guzman, L.E.P. 2019. Organic Farmers in the Philippines: Characteristics, Knowledge, Attitude and Practices. *Journal of Nature Studies*. 18(2), 26-43.