



SATOYAMA ONLINE: NON-FORMAL COURSE ON SOCIOECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES (SEPLS), ITS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTICES, CURRENT CHALLENGES, AND INITIATIVES

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ABSTRACT – Socioecological production landscapes (SEPL) or *satoyama* as adopted during COP 10 are traditional landscapes characterized by subsistence farming and secondary forests surrounding villages prevalent in east Asia and southeast Asia. In the Philippines, we call these landscapes in many different names: *muyong*, *lasang*, *bungtod*, *gubat*, etc. Due to population pressure, *satoyama* landscapes had been overly used and degraded, resulting to poor productivity and abandonment. This non-formal course had been designed to enhance awareness about this rural landscape, identify the different types of *satoyama* landscapes in the Philippines and propose some appropriate strategies to rehabilitate degraded *satoyama* landscapes. Three distinct *satoyama* are identified in the Philippines: 1) *satoyama* with rice farms, including the Ifugao Rice Terraces, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, 2) *satoyama* with mixed rice and other crops and, 3) *satoyama* with corn farms. Traditional SEPL practices organic agriculture for centuries. The managed forest, a requirement before a farm is established is taken care of, to have the best ecosystem services for the farm and the village communities. Water and organic matter from the forest had been the major farm inputs. Farm remains are decomposed naturally for organic fertilizers. At present, these landscapes suffer from overutilization and an alarming biodiversity loss. Though older generation still prefer the organic way of farming, yet many are trying to resort to use of inorganic way. Many supposedly managed forests are either mismanaged or deserted. Open Online Course (OOC) on *satoyama* has been offered for free at the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) to enhance conservation of this endangered landscape. Hopefully, this course will help inculcate the concept of the *satoyama* landscape, bringing about social transformation and subsequently, environmental rehabilitation and sustainable farm production.

Keywords: organic agriculture, socioecological production landscapes, sustainability



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