



PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP ON IRRIGATION WATER GOVERNANCE IN STA. CRUZ RIVER WATERSHED, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT - Irrigation is the key to social and economic development. Reforms in water governance are slowly taking place due to the lack of administrative capacity and interests for actors to change. This descriptive research on water governance focused on the assessment of the leadership and the type of leadership style and the participation of the members. Methods used include household interview, key informant interview, focus group discussion, 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. Results revealed that members of the irrigators' association have the liberty to express and that leader and members decide on what is best. They are partners in the various phases of activities. Officers consult the members. And the members participate in various activities. Both IA members and officers are involved in the planning and implementation phases. In the governance of irrigation water, officers practice a democratic leadership style. This is evident in the following: consultation among members in making decisions, delegation of power, openness, and encouragement for participation. Good leadership among the Irrigator's Association encouraged the members to actively participate in the planning and implementation of the irrigation system. The democratic leadership style of the irrigators' association has been proven effective in the management of the irrigation system in order to have good water governance. The participation of the members (81.82%) is associated to their high level of awareness that the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system is their responsibility to have equitable water distribution.

Key Words: Participation, leadership, water governance



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