

**Level of Knowledge and Utilization of Rice Combine Harvester among
Farmers in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija**

An Undergraduate Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of the Department of Communication and Development Studies
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In Partial Fulfillment
of the requirements for the Degree
Bachelor of Science in Development Communication

By

JEREMHACE VILLAMAR DEL PILAR


MARGIE CARIASO ESTIOKO

BILL PATRICK NUNEZ LLANZANA

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APPROVAL SHEET

This undergraduate thesis entitled "**LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND UTILIZATION OF RICE COMBINE HARVESTER AMONG FARMERS IN SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA**" prepared and submitted by **JEREMHACE V. DEL PILAR, MARGIE C. ESTIOKO, and BILL PATRICK N. LLANZANA** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION**, has been examined and is hereby accepted:


JONARD A. BARLAAN
Adviser

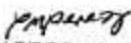
Date Signed

PANEL OF EXAMINERS


APPROVED by the Committee on Oral Examination on April 22, 2024.


DARWIN G. DELA CRUZ
Critic 1

Date Signed

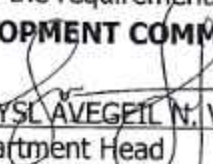

PRINCESS M. PEREZ
Critic 2

Date Signed



ZORILLE DC. VILLAFLORES, MSc
Department Research and Extension Coordinator

Date Signed

Accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION.**


CHRYSL AVEGETIL N. VALLEJO, PhD
Department Head

Date Signed


JAY C. SANTOS, PhD
Dean, College of Arts and Social Sciences

Date Signed

THESIS ABSTRACT

1. Title: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND UTILIZATION OF RICE COMBINE HARVESTER AMONG FARMERS IN SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIIJA
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ESTIOKO, MARGIE C.
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7.1 Rationale/Background

Farming is the primary livelihood of Filipinos. To give comfort for their work in the farm, machines have been developed and utilized. This study aimed to help large and small scale farmers by providing awareness on the effectiveness and efficiency of modern farm machinery. This study will help in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1-No Poverty.

7.2 Summary

The primary idea of this study is to know the level of knowledge and utilization of Rice Combine Harvester among farmers in San Jose City and provide answers to the following questions: (1) What is the socio-economic profile of farmers? (2) What are the sources of information of the farmers on the Rice Combine Harvester? (3) What is the level of knowledge of the farmers on the Rice Combine Harvester? (4) What is the maintenance procedure of Rice Combine

Harvester? (5) What is the level of utilization of the farmers on the Rice Combine Harvester? (6) What is the reason of farmers in utilizing Rice Combine Harvester? (7) What are the challenges of farmers in using Rice Combine Harvester?

This study was conducted in San Jose City with 97 farmers as respondents and selected using snowball sampling. R software was used in analyzing quantitative data such as frequency and percentage, mean, median, and mode. With this, descriptive analysis is used to describe data.

7.3 Major Findings

As per the socio-economic profile, most of the respondents were male with a mean of 45 years old. Farmer's age ranges from 18 years old (youngest) to 71 years old (oldest). The predominant level of educational attainment among the respondents was high school. During the wet season, their earnings reach ₱550,000 as the maximum. Conversely, the dry season witnesses a significant upsurge, with their income culminating at ₱800,000.

A study conducted in San Jose City found that local farmers are proficient in operating Rice Combine Harvesters and actively use them on their farms. The study also indicated high satisfaction among the farmers regarding the harvester's various functionalities.

7.4 Conclusions

In San Jose City, male farmers averaging 45 years old, primarily use farm machinery. Their income ranges from ₱93,670 in the wet season to ₱128,639 in the dry season, with high school education. They typically own 5 hectares and planting rice, onion, and chili.

Facebook is a key information source for new machinery. Farmers understand Rice Combine Harvester operations and maintenance as well. Most have used these harvesters for about six years, mainly renting due to high costs and limited training. Despite challenges, they report high satisfaction and improved productivity.

7.5 Recommendations

What the researchers recommend is as follows: To the Farmers: (1) Consider attending workshops by agricultural agencies to gain valuable knowledge and resources. (2) Have time to read IEC materials regarding the utilization of rice combine harvesters. (3) Promote knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning on the benefits and challenges of using Rice Combine Harvester. To the Agricultural Agencies: (1) Specific agricultural agencies should provide adequate and regular training and seminars about Rice Combine Harvester and not only focus on dissemination of IEC materials. (2) Improved strategies on how the farmers will engage and will be encouraged to participate in the training and seminars. (3) They should invest in research and development to improve the efficiency, adaptability, affordability, and performance of Rice Combine Harvester, ensuring that the technology continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of farmers and farming conditions. (4) Make the Rice Combine Harvester more accessible to all the farmers who may not be able to afford individual units by providing some assistance or programs. To the Future Student Researchers: (1) Future researchers may propound the study by focusing on the factors why the farmers have little to no exposure to training and seminars in the operation of rice combine harvester. (2) Future researchers may propound the study by including the whole population of San Jose City. By doing this, it is more accurate and reliable.

8. Translated Abstract (Filipino)

8.1 Rasyonale

Pagsasaka ang pangunahing kabuhayan ng mga mamamayang Pilipino. Dahil dito, ilang makinarya ang nabuo upang mas mabigyan ng kaginhawaan ang mga magsasaka sa mga gawaing-bukid. Layunin ng pag-aaral na ito na matulungan ang bawat magsasaka sa pagbibigay ng makabuluhang kaalaman na maaaring makatulong lalong-lalo na sa paggamit ng mga modernong kagamitan sa pagsasaka. Ang pag-aaral na ito ay maaari ring makatulong sa pagkamit ng Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 - No Poverty.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

RCH: Rice Combine Harvester

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

DOST-PCAARRD: Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development

PhilMech: Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

PU: Perceived Usefulness

SFT: Smart Farming Technology

LGU: Local Government Unit

CAO: City Agricultural Office

PSA: Philippine Statistics Authority

FFTC: Food and Fertilizer Technology Center

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