

FACTORS INFLUENCING UTILIZATION
/ OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

AURORA MAURO-CORALES

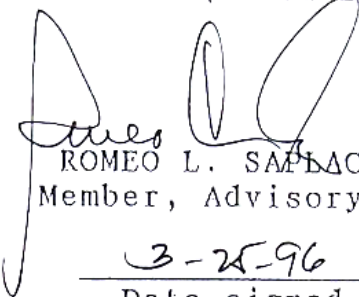
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A masteral thesis submitted to the Faculty of the
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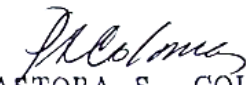
MASTER OF SCIENCE
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This thesis entitled, FACTORS INFLUENCING UTILIZATION OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS, prepared and submitted by AURORA MAURO - CORALES in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE (Rural Development), is hereby accepted.


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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Aurora Mauro-Corales was born on May 4, 1958 in Mabalacat, Pampanga. She is the eldest child of Segundina Vino-Mauro and Victorino P. Mauro.

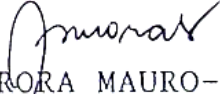
She completed her elementary education at the Bagong Sikat Elementary School as valedictorian and her secondary schooling at the then University Agricultural School, Central Luzon State University, as first honorable mention. It is in the same university where she finished the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering major in Soils and Water Management in 1980. She passed the licensure examination for professional agricultural engineers the following year.

Just after graduation from college, she landed a teaching job at the St. Joseph's School. After a year, she was hired at the Philippine-German Cotton Project, Philippine Cotton Corporation as Statistician and then later given the Agricultural Engineer position. In 1985, she received the Bulak Award for her exemplary work performance in the project. In her stay with the corporation she got the chance to travel and visit cotton growing areas nationwide and also in Australia for one crop season. When the project was terminated

in 1988, she was absorbed by the corporation as Operations Monitoring Officer.

After almost nine years of stay at PhilCotton, she decided to go back to her home province in Nueva Ecija in 1990. She joined the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement-Nueva Ecija Branch in 1992 as Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst. While working, she enrolled at the Institute of Graduate Studies Central Luzon State University on a part-time basis and pursued a masters' degree in Rural Development.

The author is happily married to Rizal G. Corales with whom she is blessed with three daughters, Helen Valerie, Laarni Grace and Minerva Mae.


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ABSTRACT

CORALES, AURORA MAURO, Institute of Graduate Studies, Central Luzon State University, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, April 1996. FACTORS INFLUENCING UTILIZATION OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS.

Adviser: Dr. Teodora T. Acoba

The study sought to determine the relationship of some selected socio-economic, communication-related, and technical variables with the utilization of organic fertilizers of the farmer-respondents.

A total of 262 farmers in the municipalities of Muñoz, Talavera and Guimba, Nueva Ecija served as respondents of the study. Data were obtained using the interview schedule. These were tabulated and analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, means, ranks, standard deviation and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient.

Findings of the study showed that the average number of years in farming of the respondents was 23.15 years. Majority of them (54.2%) are amortizing owners with mean farm size of 1.71 ha. The annual per capita income of the respondents was P14,750.00 and the

average production cost per hectare was P15, 028.69 and P18,332.19 for the wet and dry seasons, respectively.

Out the 262 respondents, 52.6 percent used organic fertilizers. Of this percentage, 96 respondents (36.6%) were partial utilizers and 42 respondents (16.0%), utilizers. The improvement in soil condition, reduction in soil acidity and the cooperative's recommendation were the most important reasons given by the respondents for using organic fertilizers. The risk involved and the lack of knowledge in the use of organic fertilizers were cited as reasons by the non-utilizers.

Majority of the utilizers (73.2%) claimed that organic fertilizer was always available. Almost the same percentage of respondents (73.9%) said they had no access to special market for organically grown products which is considered an incentive for utilization of organic fertilizers.

A greater proportion (52.7%) of the respondents have not attended any training course related to organic fertilizers; and most of them (64.1%) availed of extension services.

The dominant soil condition after harvest was whitish (31.7%) and not porous (48.5%). All the farmer-respondents utilized modern high yielding varieties

(HYVs) and a small percentage (1.2%) used traditional varieties in addition to HYVs. Farmer-utilizers believed that the composition of the organic fertilizer was complete or sufficient for plant growth while 11.6 percent claimed otherwise. Improvements in yield were also observed by the organic fertilizer utilizers.

Of the seven socio-economic characteristics, only availability of organic fertilizer and accessibility to market incentive for organic rice registered significant correlations with utilization. As to the technical factors, only organic fertilizer composition and yield significantly influenced the utilization of organic fertilizers.

Among the problems encountered by the respondents related to utilization, the bad smell of organic fertilizer was the most pressing concern of the users. More fertilizers to haul, difficulty in application and the growth of too much weeds were also cited as limiting factors. Improve quality of organic fertilizers in the market at low price was the foremost solution suggested by them which could be better addressed through a collaborative undertaking between the producers, the government and the end users.

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