

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PERCEIVED TRAINING
NEEDS OF FARMER-LEADERS ON POSTHARVEST
IN THREE TOWNS OF NUEVA ECIJA

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This thesis entitled, FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PERCEIVED TRAINING NEEDS OF FARMER-LEADERS ON POSTHARVEST IN THREE TOWNS OF NUEVA ECIJA, prepared and submitted by RHODORA D. RIGOR in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT, is hereby accepted.

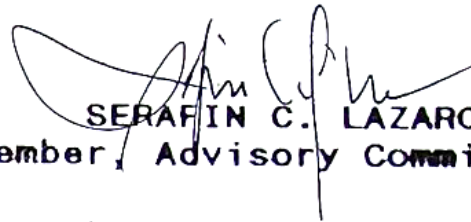


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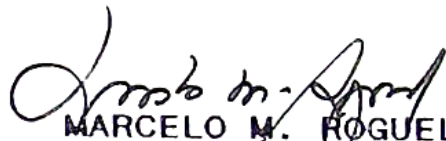


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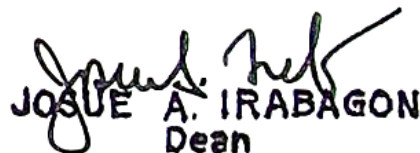
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The author was born on November 14, 1960 in San Miguel, Metro Manila. She is the second child in a brood of five of Milagros Flores Dumpit and Rodolfo Calisterio Dumpit.

She spent ten years of primary and secondary education in a parochial school in Paco, Metro Manila. She graduated with honors from Paco Catholic School in 1977.

The beauty of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños nestled at the foot of the legendary Mt. Makiling lured her into spending a significant part of her life at the premier state university. She pursued a course in Development Communication at the then Department of Development Communication. A Bachelor of Science degree in Development Communication was bestowed upon her in 1982.

In the same year, she landed an editorial job at the National Postharvest Institute for Research and Extension (NAPHIRE). From then on, the Institute became her open field where she toiled, sweated, achieved and grew as a professional. Patience, hardwork and a strong attachment to the agency which invariably nurtured her career led to her assumption of some important posts.

She was Acting Manager of the Training and Extension Department from 1986-1987. In the next three years, she was appointed Liaison Officer/Executive Assistant at the Manila-based NAPHIRE Liaison Office. Currently, she is Division Chief of the Applied Communication Division, a post which gives her enough latitude for self-expression and creativity.

The author is happily married to Engr. Artemio C. Rigor Jr. with whom she is blessed with two boisterous kids, Mark and Nimrod.

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ABSTRACT

RIGOR, RHODORA D. Institute of Graduate Studies, Central Luzon State University, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PERCEIVED TRAINING NEEDS OF FARMER-LEADERS ON POSTHARVEST IN THREE TOWNS OF NUEVA ECIJA.

Adviser: Dr. Marcelo M. Roguel

The study sought to describe the socio-economic, psychological and communication-related characteristics of the officers of selected farmer cooperatives and their perceived training needs on postharvest. Further, the study aimed to establish the relationship of the respondents' characteristics with their perceived training needs.

A total enumeration survey of 122 officers of 16 farmer cooperatives which are beneficiaries of the GPEP - Postharvest Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and NAPHIRE served as respondents. The towns of Muñoz, Talavera and Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija were chosen as study sites because these have the most number of cooperatives participating in the GPEP - Postharvest Program.

A questionnaire administered in group was used in gathering data. Description of the characteristics of

respondents and extent of training needs was analyzed using frequency counts, mean and standard deviation. The relationship of the independent and dependent variables was analyzed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

Results revealed that a typical respondent attended 9.28 years of schooling (third year high school); affiliated with rural-based organizations; had 7.34 years of relevant experience; and received an annual net family income of ₱55,910.90. The overall exposure to media of the respondents was low.

Educational attainment substantially influenced perceived training needs of respondents on financial aspect of drying, storage and enterprise development. Similarly, family income was significantly related with perceived training needs of respondents on harvesting and threshing and palay grading. Exposure to media had no relevant association with perceived training needs.

Regarding psychological factors, respondents in general, manifested very favorable attitudes toward postharvest issues. Respondents' attitude was significantly associated with perceived training needs in the three general areas on storage, milling and enterprise development.

Aspirations were generally high with a mean of 2.58. Expectations were significantly associated with respondents' perceptions on the sub-topic on financial aspect of drying and the general topic on storage.

Generally, the study showed that the respondents had high perceived training needs on postharvest. Postharvest enterprise development ranked first followed by rice milling, storage, drying and harvesting and threshing.

Education, income and the psychological attributes of farmer-leaders which significantly influenced perceived training needs should be enhanced. Mobilization of various channels of communication should be done to open more opportunities for obtaining meaningful experiences, and draw farmer-leaders to organizations which are engaged in postharvest activities.

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