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報告題名(title): Finding the right mix between agriculture extension services and rice farmers capabilities in Camarines Sur province, Philippines

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報告要旨(Abstract)

Agriculture extension remains an integral part in the development of the agriculture sector particularly in the developing countries. It plays play an important role in promoting agricultural innovations to capacitate farmers to address issues such as low farm productivity and farm income and high incidence of poverty. In the Philippines, the benefits of a devolved agriculture extension system remain to be seen. The system is described to be highly fragmented, weak and unorganized contributing to the poor economic performance of the agriculture sector.

The Philippine government is implementing the Food Staples Sufficiency Program under the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016). The program covering rice, white corn, banana and other root crops aims to increase productivity to meet sufficiency levels. The main goals are to achieve food security and increase farmers' income thereby reducing poverty in the rural areas. Investments are made for infrastructure, irrigation, production technologies and farm mechanization and postharvest facilities. The program strategies are focused on recognizing farmer-centered innovations.

The major challenge is how to make things work given the poor state of agriculture extension system. The capabilities of both farmers and the agriculture extension workers need to be assess to develop effective approaches that can improve extension delivery system and can increase farmers' productivity and income. Socio-economic characteristics and extension needs of farmers will also be analyze to help identify the factors that influence farmers' adoption of technologies and their attitude toward extension services. This study looks into the case of rice farmers in Camarines Sur province in the Philippines. This province is one of the biggest rice producing provinces for the past 30 years and at the same time remains one of the poorest.

質疑·応答(Q & A)

Takashino sensei: Can you please show me slide No. 20 about farmer characteristics. There's some number about organization and 43% of farmers joined organization. Can you explain the role of this organization on the extension? I just want to know?

Manalo: Thank you for the question sensei. Sorry if I did not emphasize on that. The role of the organization is...since it's already devolved... I'll just go back to the structure. It is very hard to implement a program individually. For a farmer to receive atleast an assurance of support, he should be a member of an association. Because it is very easy. Since it is already from the local government and the people of the local government is very limited. We are trying to engage organizations, to support us in the extension. They act as our agent like local extension.

Takashino sensei: So this is something like JA?

Manalo: Not really, we don't have that biggest... but yes, theoretically.

Takashino sensei: a formal institution?

Manalo: No, just farmer group. We call it farmer association or organization. Because the term means like a big company, but no, it's just a farmer group.

Takashino sensei: the local extension worker goes to this kind of group

Manalo: Yes, talk to them and for them to replicate and share.

Takashino sensei: Ok thank you.

Yonekura sensei: Question is on the abbreviation LGU. LGU means the what? Including the province, the city, municipality and also barangay? And one more, in your slide, there a total LGUs, 37 LGUs municipality in slide 19. What is the name of the province?

Manalo: The province have 37 municipalities? This is only for Camarines Sur. The 37 municipalities is only for one province.

Yonekura sensei: Sorry what is the name of the province?

Manalo: Camarines Sur sensei. It's here. Sorry because it's very small.

Yonekura sensei: The picture in slide 13. This is the Camarines.

Manalo: Yes, that is the province.

Yonekura sensei: How about the coverage? One extension worker must cover how many villages? In average.

Manalo: I don't know the specific average for villages but. But for the data in terms of farmers. In terms of farmers in slide 19, this is the ratio, I mean this is the distribution. I just forgot the ratio. But we can see that in terms of the number 2 producing municipality, 3,960 farmers only 2. So 1,430 farmers for only 1 extension worker. In terms of the 2nd municipality.

Yonekura sensei: So 1,430 for 1 municipality.

Manalo: Yes, for 1 municipality that has only 2. But for the average, the average for this is around 5. 5 is equal to around 3,600 farmers.

Manalo: 3,600 for 5. That's the average for this 10.

Yonekura sensei: Please say again. Per extension worker approximately...

Manalo: around 800-900 farmers approximately. Per extension worker.

Yonekura sensei: And in 1 barangay. Barangay is village? How many household per 1 village?

I want to get a clear view on the extension system in the Philippines.

Manalo: I just want to point out Sensei. On slide 5, this one. Before extension workers are under the national government. And we implement the program until the farmer level. But because of this, the extension worker is actually up to the Municipality/City. This is no extension worker in the village.

Yonekura sensei: Yeah, anyway a place in the municipality, you can read it per barangay.

Manalo: Maybe for farmers per 1 barangay maybe average of 50 to 100 farmers per barangay.

Yonekura sensei: So then maybe for 1 extension worker cover approximately 10 barangays.

In the Philippines, is there a system like training and visit? So that extension worker can visit how many times per month?

Manalo: I asked them but I haven't shown. But I asked first the local officer because the extension worker I will ask next week. According to them, they were able to visit farmers per cropping we have two croppings per year, only 10 times.

Yonekura sensei: 10 times per month?

Manalo: per cropping, per 6 months. 10 times but we cannot assure that same farmers

Yonekura sensei: Cannot repeat visit to the 1 barangay?

Manalo: No, because the problem Sensei is transportation. This one, transportation and mobility is the biggest problem. In slide 28. Because in the case of the 4th class municipality, in Pamplona, only 12% of the fund is for mobilization or implementation of activities. Not only for training or farm visit but 12% of the fund is the whole activity of the sector. So you could see that the fund is very limited. It is in slide 18, in this part, only 87% is for the salary. 12% is for the fund to all activities so very little. And I already have the opportunity to talk with extension workers and they said we are doing our farm visit from our own pockets. So hopefully I can get that information next week.

Yonekura sensei: The table shows the allocation of the agriculture sector including the training, the salary?

Manalo: This includes the salary.

Yonekura sensei: Salary also, I see. So very small. Basically each extension worker is employee of each municipality?

Manalo: Yes

Yonekura sensei: In case of Indonesia, approximately 10,000 extension workers entire Indonesia. Total number of village is approximately 70,000. So that 1 extension worker must cover around 7 villages. And each village, population is around 3,000 or like that. 1 village include 1,000 farmers approximately or 1,000 households and farmers maybe 50% of that. At the era of the green revolution, particularly the ending period of 1980s the system of rice is like that. And each extension workers can cover and visit village once per two week so that twice per one month. In Philippines case, how about each extension worker can visit each barangay twice per month?

Manalo: No

Yonekura sensei: Impossible?

Manalo: Impossible.

Yonekura sensei: So only once per six month like that.

Manalo: Yeah. And the data of the farmer said that in this case although this is just preliminary. This is last year. Their farm was not visited. Almost 60% of the farms were not visited the whole year.

Yonekura sensei: Yeah but you know not necessarily each farmer can be visited directly. So that figure is not correctly we can see the activity of the extension worker.

Manalo: Yes but I want to look into the.. because maybe I just want to discuss the point that... they said farmers are lazy. Farmers are lazy, but how can I prove that farmers are lazy? I cannot ask them are you lazy? So I want to look.. Let me show this is just initial but it's very grave. The distance of the farm is only 4 kms to the source of information. They said they want information. They want training. 60% of them want training; their distance is only 4 kms to the source of training or information. And they spent only 4 hours per day. What? How do they use their time?. These are some of the points that I want to look into.

Yonekura sensei: One more question. How about the relation between the farmer association and the water association. Maybe there is an association and for the two associations are they same or different? This is particularly the case of the paddy field.

Manalo: Yeah, especially in irrigated area. Majority of these farms are irrigated areas. They said the problem is water supply. Maybe because they are not members of organization. The organization in that area are irrigators association. The maintenance, the money comes from the national, implemented by the local, the communal irrigations systems, the maintenance or the canalization and they are the ones who schedule who will get water. And I am just saying maybe because I don't have the data yet. Non-members are not prioritized. So the relationship of ordinary farmer groups to the irrigators association if they are separated maybe not good especially during dry season the priority of course is the member of the association.

Yonekura sensei: I can see the arrangement between the two organizations and also the arrangement of coordination between the extension worker and irrigators association I think.

Manalo: The relationship is good for the extension worker to the irrigators association. Because we need each other. The extension worker needs that irrigators association. In order to meet the target production.

Yonekura sensei: Yeah but you know under the irrigation system, the water supply is strictly controlled by the government public works you know or irrigation and sometimes the extension activity of agriculture extension doesn't fit with the irrigation management.

Manalo: Thank you for that Sensei. It's a nice question, I will explain the picture in Philippines. The National Irrigation in slide 8. This is the national government, of course this is the Philippine Rice Institute, this is the National Irrigation Authority, it is under the national government. Yeah they control the release of water. But in terms of relationship, the main point of the rice program is to have sufficiency. So as I said

through here. The devolution, gave the power to the local government but in the case of rice. The local governments have no power. Because the power lies with the national government. We control everything. We control the resources. First is the money then the water. And as I said the relationship between the government, the extension and the irrigators association is good because the government said "we have to target this amount of production, we will release water.

Yonekura sensei: So that the extension worker will come to prepare the seeds, fertilizer, credit under the control of the local government. And water supply is controlled by the government.

Manalo: Yes but the whole system is under the program. Under the program of the national rice.

Yonekura sensei: Yeah but production area, the coordination is good.

Manalo: For the member irrigators association only. The bias of this program is only for the members. Not those who are interviewed. Because they are not members.

Yonekura sensei: So present problem exists in non-irrigated areas. And you focus in such non-irrigated area?

Manalo: All

Yonekura sensei: All?

Manalo: All because of course I am from here but in personal capacity, I want to look into the case of the farmers because it's very.. not good or not to know that farmers are the very poorest members of the society considering the government is implementing programs. Why the farmers are the poorest sector of the economy. So I want to look into this. And yeah the main actors are not good as these shows.