



## **INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND THE ECOSYSTEM: IT'S IMPLICATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper determined the relationship between the indigenous knowledge of farmers in Aklan and the ecosystem which have nurtured them for hundreds of years. Indigenous knowledge refers to knowledge accumulated through a long series of observations transmitted from generation to generation. Farmers recognize that their continued well-being depends on the continued sustainability of the ecosystem they inhabit. Among the cultural practices of farmers deemed to be ecologically-friendly were the use of indigenous pest control, use of insect-repellant plants, soil management practices which moderate soil temperatures, suppress diseases and harmful pests and conserve soil moisture. Indigenous plant materials more resistant to drought and pests were planted. Seeds used for planting and different varieties of crops were rotated to increase their resistance to diseases and minimize the risk of harvest failure. The upland peoples also connected with the spirit world which served as the guiding principle in the sustainable use of the rainforest and the village gardens. Multi-cropping, planting of perennial crops, categorization of soil and planting of appropriate crops, planting leguminous crops, allocating land as watershed, and preserving traditional varieties of palay seeds were also equally important to the preservation of the environment. The present generation can learn much from indigenous knowledge handed down by our ancestors. These cultural practices have ensured the sustainability of our environment. It is therefore incumbent on the part of policy makers and educators to support and preserve them so that they will be passed on to the generations yet to come.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Indigenous Knowledge, Ecosystem, Environmental Education.*