



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION OF LOWLAND FARMERS IN AKLAN

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ABSTRACT

This paper determined the Aklanon farmers' awareness on climate change and its causes, adaptation strategies and their recommendations to mitigate climate change. The descriptive research design was used. Qualitative data were gathered using the interview method. Farmers are sensitive and observant of weather changes. They revealed that they felt extreme weather patterns which led to the deterioration or destruction of crops. Better educated farmers got their knowledge about climate change from print and broadcast media. The Aklanon farmers reacted to climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies. Farmers started planting crops that could thrive well in wet and dry seasons, such as coconut, mungo, banana and vegetables. Those whose farms were fed by water from the mountains created new canals for water to pass through. Other strategies were to wait for the best time to plant and to control the amount of water. Some relied on fertilizer and pesticide to improve their harvest. Others had adopted a fatalistic attitude to things which they thought were beyond their control. Some of their recommendations to mitigate climate change were to scatter rice stalks in the field, bury the garbage, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and use compost instead, plant bamboo, coconut and other plants, regular water supply from irrigation canals, and use of technology to forecast the weather. The farmers' awareness on climate change was very high because they experienced firsthand the destructive effects of the changing weather pattern. They realized that they need to adapt to climate change in order to survive since they are among the most vulnerable. Their livelihood was dependent on the planting and harvest cycle, which all depend on the weather.

KEYWORDS: climate change, adaptation, lowland farmers, awareness, traditional knowledge

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