

Assessment on the Performance of Income Generating Project of Visayas State University: Pangasugan-Marcos Rice Production

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Abstract

This study was conducted to assess the impact and contribution of VSU Income-Generating Project on rice production conducted at Barangay Pangasugan and Marcos. The project will cater to the four core functions of the Visayas State University, instruction, research, extension, and production. It served as the site of the Agronomy students' field activities. This site served as the research and extension project of the Department of Agronomy. Moreover, it is one of the income-generating projects of Visayas State University. The project generated a total net income of PhP280,000 for the four-year operations. The project served 45 students, five faculties and 25 farmers conducted their extension project on low-cost rice production technology.

Keywords: Lowland rice, income-generating, cultivators, and management

Research article

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INTRODUCTION

The emergence of income-generating projects (IGPs) in State Colleges and Universities (SCUs) has been conceived to augment the University's resources and fill in the budget gap for any relevant expenditure items that the University may incur (Miranda et al. 2016). One of the IGP proposed by the Visayas State University-Income Generating Project personnel and supervised by the Department of Agronomy (VSU-IGP 2018). The project on rice production is located in Barangay Pangasugan and Barangay Marcos in Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines. The total land area occupied by the project was approximately 1.5 hectares with ten cultivators. The project on rice production is guided by the modern rice production technologies adopted by the farmer cultivators.

The rice production project in VSU decreased in 2017 and 2020 due to typhoons and the problems on COVID 19 Pandemic, respectively. Thus we need to adopt modern technologies in rice production (Beronio et al. 2020). Planting is usually done two (2) times a year. The sharing of harvest is 2/3 for the cultivator and 1/3 for VSU. No project expenses were incurred in this project since the cultivators provided all the inputs except for the hauling of VSU share from the farm up to the roadside where the palay is sold.

This project will serve the four core functions of the University for Instruction, Research, Extension, and Production. To study will try to assess the project's performance and examine the challenges experienced by the rice farmer cultivators that may hinder them from achieving the maximum productivity and income.

METHODOLOGY

The project on rice production is located in Barangay Pangasugan and Barangay Marcos in Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines. The area is lowland irrigated with plain elevation. Previously, the total land area occupied was approximately 2.5 hectares with 12 cultivators. However, now it only had approximately 1.65 hectares because PhilRootcrops took an approximately 0.75-hectare area of 2 cultivators for their research activities. The project dealt on one commodity only, specifically on rice production as the area is only suited for rice. Planting is usually done two times a year. During harvest, the cultivators informed the project leader of any activities in the field, especially during harvest time. The project leader will also inform the person in charge of the IASSO. Implementation of the project was based on the premise of the University's general objectives.

The harvest sharing is 2/3 for the cultivator and 1/3 for VSU. No project expenses were incurred since all inputs were provided by the cultivators except for the hauling of VSU share from the farm up to the roadside where the VSU vehicle will pick the palay harvest. The VSU share will be sold to the palay buyer with the highest price per kilo of fresh palay. Income generated from sales was recorded correctly and remitted to the treasury of the University. The sales report was supported by sales receipts from the commercial buyers and checked by the IASSO personnel.

The project's organizational structure follows the guidelines of the Visayas State University Income Generating Project of VSU (VSU-IGP 2018).

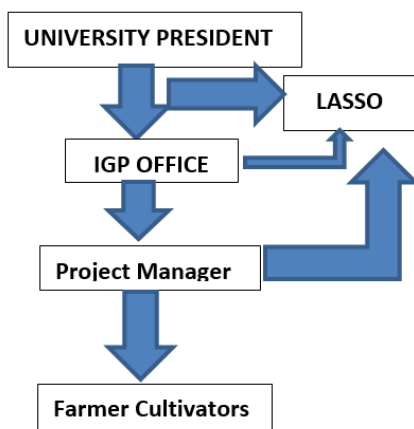


Figure 1. Organizational structure of the VSU-IGP

RESULT and DISCUSSION

Table 1. The farmer cultivators with their corresponding farm size

Cultivators	Name of farmers	Age	Area (Ha) Cultivated	Number of Cropping
1	Almario Halasan	57	0.10	Wet season only
2	Melquiades Bagarinao	62	0.02	Wet and dry season
3	Eleno Bagarinao	60	0.30*	terminated
4	Eduardo Leal	56	0.02	Wet and dry season
5	Isidro Fernandez	65	0.35	Wet season only
6	Jimmy Caballero	53	0.30	Wet and dry season
7	Isidro Bagarinao	71	0.45*	terminated
8	Enrique Alcober	68	0.10*	terminated
9	Faustino Bagarinao	6	0.30	Wet and dry season
10	Evelyn Frances	48	0.35	Wet and dry season
11	Jesus Vega	50	0.25	The wet and dry season
12	Pedro Bagarinao		0.15	The wet and dry season
Total			1.65 has	
Mean		69		

* Terminated because Philrootcrops used the area for their research activities

Contribution to the University's four-fold functions

The project goal followed the four-fold function of the University's instruction, research, extension, and production. (VSU-IGP 2020)

University's four-fold functions	Project's Contribution
1. Instruction	The project will serve as the demonstration area for rice production that will cater to agriculture students to observe their farm activities from land preparation up to harvesting and collecting pests in the rice field for the pest management majors.
2. Research	The project will also cater to some research activities of the students and faculty as learning sites such as farmer's field school and others.
3. Extension	The project will serve as sites for the extension project of the Department of Agronomy, such as technical assistance to the farmer cultivators for the improvement of rice yield.
4. Production	This is one of the purposes why this project was implemented to support the income-generating projects of VSU.

Inventory of Equipment and Supplies

This project was purely supervision by the rice cultivators during harvesting. The farmer cultivators will provide the needed farm equipment and capital such as inputs and other expenses during the farm operation. Thus the VSU will not provide equipment and field supplies to the cultivator.

Problems Met and Action Taken

Problems Encountered	Actions Taken
<p>1. LOW PRODUCTION- caused by the following factors:</p> <p>a. Weather Conditions Continuous rains and frequent visit of typhoons which affected field operations and cultural management practices like application of fertilizer and pesticides</p> <p>b. Lack of Inputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusted activity schedule and implementation • Timing of planting to minimize damage/sterility of grains caused by strong wind (habagat). • Proposed support on the credit of fertilizer and other chemical inputs to the cultivator
<p>2. Conflict of work schedule to monitor the project operations, especially during harvesting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritized scheduling of work activities through an advance notice on the activity schedule like harvesting.
<p>3. Harvesting Schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposed harvesting is scheduled to be done during weekdays to facilitate the presence of the authorized personnel for monitoring purposes.

Recommendation for Improvement

<p><i>a. Financial</i> Target income to P50,000.00 per year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct meeting with the cultivators before planting to facilitate the preparation of seeds and inputs needed in each farm. • Promote low-cost cultural management practices for rice production • Promote the use of hybrid rice variety and other high yielding inbreed rice varieties
<p><i>b. Non-financial</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closely supervise the cultivators under the project and • Increase the production of rice and income per unit area • Provide technical and financial assistance to the cultivators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent visit to the area/farm • Promote the use of certified rice seeds • The efficiency of using inputs (pesticides and fertilizers) • Provide certified seeds and some inputs (thru credit) to the farmers/tenants

- Promote the use of hybrid rice variety, and other high-yielding inbred rice varieties.

Income Statement (2016 to 2020)

Income Statement	Net Income Remitted to VSU	Reasons
CY 2016	PhP 51,548.50	The project still achieved the projected income.
CY 2017	PhP 42,396.00	Most of the cultivators experienced meager harvest due to severe damage on their rice field brought about by the typhoons and other natural calamities.
CY 2018	PhP 58,430.00	This is the regular income and yield harvest yield for the two cropping season, wet and dry seasons.
CY 2019	PhP 68,430.00	Surplus of target income was achieved due to improvements in the management. Thus, they can get a good harvest.
CY 2020	PhP 48,430.00	Due to the Pandemic, some farmer cultivators were not able to plant their fields.
TOTAL		

Assessment of the Project (VSU-IGP 2018)

Overall Management

Items	Last Year's Performance Rating (1-10 scale), NA not applicable	Details or justifications for the rating provided
1. Able to sustain the gains of the project carried over from the previous administration	5	The year 2017 was considered a failure for the cropping season due to severe damage of the crop due to typhoons
2. Able to manage and improve the efficiency of workers	6	Due to the heavy workload of the project manager on instruction and research
3. Able to implement initiatives to improve the productivity of workers	7	Implemented initiatives to improve the productivity of workers
4. The project falls within the mandate of the unit	10	This is part of the department and university goal to provide the four-fold functions (instruction, research, extension, and production) of the University
5. Maintenance of peaceful environment in the project	8	No requests of mediation to settle disputes within the project
6. Worker turn-over degree	7	Some cultivator did not produce a good harvest due to late planting
7. Worker retrenchment	NA	NA

8. Frequency of requests of mediation to settle disputes within the project	8	No requests of mediation to settle disputes within the project
9. Adherence to BOR/ CHED/DBM policies/guidelines	NA	NA
10. Practicing transparency in all transaction	10	All harvesting activities up to the sale of shares were attended by IASSO personnel. The sales were remitted directly to the cash division office

Research Management

Items	Last Year's Performance Rating (1-10 scale), NA not applicable	Details or justifications for the rating provided
1. Have made improvements/innovations in the project based on research results	6	No proper research/interventions were done in the farm sites. Still, the project proposal was submitted to VSU Extension Office.
2. Extended support to research community to improve research capability	6	No proper research/interventions were done in the farm sites. Still, the project proposal was submitted to VSU Extension Office.
3. Provided infrastructure to improve research capability	6	The farmer cultivators only maintained irrigation canal for their use No other infrastructure was established
4. Adoption of relevant technologies	7	Not all farmer cultivators follow the modern technology for rice, such as certified seeds and proper use of inputs (chemical fertilizers and pesticides). Timing of planting / synchronous planting to all rice farmers.

Extension Management

Items	Last Year's Performance Rating (1-10 scale), NA not applicable	Details or justifications for the rating provided
1. Alignment of the project with instruction and extension	7	Caters primary agronomy students' for their laboratory classes and demonstration for extension
2. Formulated and implemented creative outputs to bring project output to intended clientele	7	The project serves as training sites for the department's extension activities.

3. Provided mentoring services and established partnership arrangement with clientele or interested parties	7	Cater's primary agronomy students' for their laboratory classes and any interested clientele
4. Sustainability of implementing the project	8	Sustainability of production system for the farmer
5. Transfer of knowledge and expertise to interested parties	7	Caters primary agronomy students' for their laboratory classes and researches
6. Technologies extended or demonstrated	8	Provides training program on the production and management of the different cultural management practices for rice to agronomy primary students specifically for their skills development (practicum) and interested farmers/technicians on their NC II and III in Crop Production.
7. The extent to which the project is used for the University's extension function	7	The project serves as a laboratory facility for instruction, research, and the training area for the department's extension activities.

Production Management (Miranda et al., 2016)

Items	Last Year's Performance Rating (1-10 scale) NA not applicable	Details or justifications for the rating provided
1. Level of revenue /yield generated from the project	6	The yield of rice is low because of erratic climatic condition that affects the operations.
2. Number of other potential marketable products of the project	5	No other crop has been planted because the area is intended only for lowland crops like rice
3. Employed strategies or technologies to increase income generation or production	5	Cultivators need skills training specifically for modern cultural management practices for rice. Adoption of low-cost land preparation and proper/efficient use of inputs need to be observed
4. Level of income generated from the commercialization of products generated from technology developed	6	They introduced technology to the cultivators are to be verified and tested.

Financial Management

Items	Last Year's Performance Rating (1-10 scale) NA not applicable	Details or justifications for the rating provided
1. On-time payment of salaries and benefits	NA	No salaries for workers because the farmer cultivators shouldered it
2. On-time payment to suppliers	NA	No salaries for workers because the farmer cultivators shouldered it
3. Adherence to COA policies	8	Cultivators informed the project leader of any activities in the field, especially during harvest time. The project leader will also inform the person in charge at IASSO for proper monitoring.
4. Efficiency in the utilization of GOP budget	NA	No GOP needed
5. Efficiency in the utilization of income	NA	No project expenses were noted because the cultivators shouldered all production inputs except for the hauling of VSU share from the farm up to the roadside where VSU vehicles will pick/get the palay harvest.
6. Amount of annual savings	NA	The money was deposited in the cash division office under the general fund
8. Practice record keeping	10	Income generated from sales was recorded correctly and remitted to the treasury of the University.
9. On-time submission of financial reports	9	The sales report was supported by sales receipts from the commercial buyers and checked by the IASSO personnel. Financial reports were submitted to IASSO.

Plans for Improvement in the Project Operation

This project needs intervention to improve the efficiency of production. The pool of experts from the Department of Agronomy submits an extension project proposal to the VSU Extension Office for funding support. The project aims to promote the low-cost rice production technology to the interested farmers in the neighboring barangays, including our rice farmer cultivator.

CONCLUSION

The project's success depends on the people who are handling the operations (Florendo, 2005). Hence, continuous farmer/cultivator education is necessary to make them understand scientific principles of crop and resource management; adjust various inputs to temporal and spatial variability of rice fields; adopt integrated nutrient, water, weed, and pest management; and increase farm income through efficient post-harvest processing and utilization of byproducts.

The project served as the demonstration area for rice production that will cater to agriculture students to observe their farm activities from land preparation up to harvesting the project generated a total net income of PhP280,000 for the four-year operations. Served 15 students, five faculty and 25 farmers conducted their extension project on low-cost rice production technology.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Cultivators need skills training specifically for modern cultural management practices for rice. Adoption of low-cost land preparation and proper/efficient use of inputs need to be observed.
2. To increase income generation, the development/cultivation of some idle areas was done to increase the area for rice production. Proper maintenance of irrigation and drainage was done to efficiently control and maintain the water supply for rice production. Use of modern rice cultural management practices was adopted like certified rice seed varieties and application of inputs efficiency.
3. Farmer/cultivators need adequate training and technical support to improve their decision-making capacity and adequately utilize the new techniques.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. The project is solely income-generating, which is also followed the COA rules and regulations.
2. A cultivator should be provided with trainings on modern rice production technologies to increase the production per unit area per unit time.
3. An integrated crop management approach (water, soil fertility/nutrients, weeds/pests/diseases, and post-harvest processing) is vital to maximize the productivity and profitability of rice farmers/cultivators.
4. All technologies and practices should be used synergistically to help farmers increase and/or maintain grain yields at the same or reduced cost.
5. Improving the quality of milled rice and increasing the recovery of head-rice will enhance farmers' profitability.
6. We need to train the extension staff and equip them with adequate tools to educate their farmer-clients on modern rice farming.

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