

Sustainability of Organic Rice Farming in Surallah, South Cotabato, Philippines

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Abstract

This study was conducted in Surallah, South Cotabato, Philippines, to determine the sustainability of organic rice farming in the municipality. Specifically, it sought to answer the extent of sustainability of organic rice farming in terms of economic and social aspect and the significant difference of organic rice farming in relation to profile of respondents. Descriptive survey method was conducted with 34 farmer respondents. Data were analyzed using mean and chi-square statistics. Findings showed that the overall mean rating on the extent of sustainability of organic rice farming in terms of the economic aspect was 3.87 (highly sustainable) and in terms of the social aspects was 3.82 (highly sustainable). Significant difference was found on age, occupation, monthly income, income stability, educational attainment, and years in farming. It concludes that organic rice farming in Surallah, South Cotabato, is highly sustainable. It is recommended that the local government unit and the Department of Agriculture shall continue the provision of capacity building through more trainings and seminars, as well as technical support and assistance. There must be continuing implementation of programs and projects to educate more farmers, which results in continued good production, increased income, and a healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, the farmer's interest in organic farming is considered important in order to be effective as an organic rice farmer. Motivation, perseverance, and patience are other virtues in adopting organic farming.