

Damage of Typhoon Yolanda in the Agricultural Crops of Calinog, Iloilo

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Abstract - *The phenomenological method aims to describe the damage of Yolanda typhoon in the agricultural crops of farmers in the Municipality of Calinog. The findings found out that both male and females farm but have different roles. Usually, males prepare the land. Both male and female transplant and harvest the crops. Females are also engaged in post-harvest processing (cleaning and drying at household level) and selling the surplus production of both vegetables and staple food crops. Some farmers are active in farming associations; women are often more active than men; the Municipality of Calinog is among the largest municipal contributors to total provincial rice, with Iloilo Province being the largest contributor. Corn is the second food crop in the municipality and a staple food of the Filipino population; coconut farming in the Municipality of Calinog was the one of the smaller production. Rice, corn, vegetables, and fruit bearing trees are main sources of economic activity among farming communities in the upland areas. The people engage directly (e.g. farm owners, workers and traders) or indirectly (e.g. transport and logistics). Copra production is a year-round activity for producers, with about three harvests per year. Corn, rice, vegetables, and fruit bearing trees such as mango, Chico, and banana are major livelihood activities of farmers in the said Municipality. Finally, Sugarcane farming mainly takes place in the Municipality of Calinog, which contributed over one fourth the total sugarcane productions in the province of Iloilo.*

Keywords: Damage; Yolanda Typhoon; Agricultural Crops; Farmers.

I. INTRODUCTION

Calinog, which according to legend, Datu Marikudo chose to settle, is strategically located in the central part of the Island of Panay. Calinog was already a developing community when the Spaniards came between the 16th and the 17th Century. In the early 18th Century, Calinog was established as a permanent settlement following the system of town planning as prescribed by the Law of the Indies: a town plaza surrounded by the church, Municipal Tribunal, school and public market. This remains as the main town-planning feature of the poblacion until the present. The Spanish Colonial Government then declared Calinog as “Pueblo” or town in 1763. A new colonial power, the Americans introduced important changes in the civil affairs of the municipality in the early 1900s. The most significant was annexing Calinog as part of the Municipality of Passi (now a component city of Iloilo) from 1904 to 1920. Through intense lobbying by prominent leaders, Calinog was restored to its original status as a separate Municipality in January 1921. It was in the late 1960’s when Calinog stepped

on the springboard of development as a progressive Municipality bustling with business and economic opportunities. In 1969, with the sugar industry boom, the political leadership decided to split a portion of the town into a separate municipality, the Municipality of Bingawan (DILG).

Among the founders of the old communities in the uplands were the descendants of the families who fought the abusive Spanish colonizers in the settlements of Bugasong and Lawaan, Province of Antique, in the 16th Century (their colorful folklore and the oral tradition of their historical journeys became a part of the timeless epic, “Hinilawod”). Mt. Dila Dila in Barangay Alibunan is best remembered as a strong hold of Filipino guerillas and soldiers during World War II where the fiercest battles in the annals of war in the Island of Panay were fought against the Japanese Imperial Army (National Statistical Coordination Board).

Around 75% of the municipality’s slope is above 8% or category C. The municipality, however, is mainly agricultural. There are four (4) types of soil in Calinog: 1) Umingan fine sandy loam; 2) Alimodian clay loam; 3) Bantog clay loam and 4) Alimodian soil (undifferentiated) (Philippine Standard Geographic Code listing for Calinog - National Statistical Coordination Board). On 8 November 2013, Typhoon Yolanda (Yolanda) made landfall on Guiuan, in the province of Eastern Samar in the Eastern Visayas region. As the typhoon swept through the central Philippines, it caused extensive damage to houses, livelihoods and infrastructure. Government figures estimate that the typhoon affected 14.1 million people and left 4.1 million displaced. An estimated 102,000 people were in evacuation centres and more than 1.1 million houses were damaged, about half of them completely destroyed. As of January 7th 2013, the confirmed death toll is 6,183 (NDRRMC & OCHA).

The impact of Typhoon Yolanda followed a relatively clear geographical pattern. Among the worst hit areas were the east coast of Leyte and the south coasts of Samar and Eastern Samar in the Eastern Visayas region, which were hit by the tidal surge. In areas in the direct vicinity of the typhoon path in Central and Western Visayas, strong winds also caused damage in coastal areas of northern Cebu, Panay, and Coron (MCNA, 2013). Experts estimate the typhoon was among the strongest ever to make landfall. The Philippines is considered to be among the world’s most disaster-prone countries (WB, 2013). In 2012, the Philippines had the highest number (2,385) of natural disaster fatalities anywhere in the world (CRED, 2012).

The Philippine government accepted the UN offer of international assistance. Local government authorities have been leading the humanitarian response in the typhoon-affected areas with additional support being mobilised by the national government and the HCT through the Cluster Coordination

Mechanism. As response is shifting to recovery, the humanitarian community' has developed a Strategic Response Plan covering 12 months from the date of the disaster. The Government has launched on 16 December the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) to guide the recovery and reconstruction of the economy, lives, and livelihoods in the affected areas.

It is the purpose and reason of the researchers to conduct a study on these specific matters with the Damage of Yolanda Typhoon in the agricultural crops of farmers, Municipality of Calinog, as the respondents on the belief that typhoon-affected their livelihood like corn, rice, vegetables, and fruit bearing trees such as mango, Chico, and banana may greatly affect their source of living.

The study hopes to gather data on the Damage of Yolanda Typhoon in the Agricultural Crops of Farmers Municipality of Calinog; hence this study was conducted.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary objectives of the study were to gather data on the damage of typhoon Yolanda in the agricultural crops of farmers in the Municipality of Calinog and to explore reasons why they have overcome damage caused by super typhoon.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The phenomenological method aims to describe, damage of Yolanda typhoon in the agricultural crops of farmers Municipality of Calinog. According to Edmund Husserl (1859–1938) Phenomenology has roots in both philosophy and psychology. Husserl emphasized the centrality of the human context in understanding life; that is, researchers and readers of research can understand human experience because they are participants in the human condition. Thus, the task of understanding is to retain continuity with what is already experientially evident and familiar to us as humans.

The In-depth interview was guided by a set of questions developed to broadly evaluation on the damage of Yolanda typhoon in the agricultural crops of farmers in the Municipality of Calinog. Rather than sticking to a rigid interview schedule, flexibility was allowed when interviewing participants so as to elicit the information that was most important to them. After the first interview, questions were added for future interviews to incorporate themes that had not been anticipated. Interviews always began with the question, “what are the damages caused of Yolanda typhoon in the agricultural crops of farmers Municipality of Calinog?”. Using this approach, it was not uncommon to deviate from the standard list of questions, with the result of collecting a rich body of data.

Data Gathering Procedure and Analysis

All interviews were transcribed and analysed as they were collected. Initially, transcripts were read and re-read, and notes were taken as broad themes or concepts emerged. Subsets of concepts, called categories, were noted and gradually fell into the context of the broader themes. This process of developing concepts and categories, known as open and axial coding, was the first step of analysis, and was performed on an ongoing

basis during the data collection phase. The next step was the development of a narrative account of the relationships between the categories, which is the product of selective coding.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Both male and females farm but have different roles. Usually, males prepare the land. Both male and female transplant and harvest the crops. Females are also engaged in post-harvest processing (cleaning and drying at household level) and selling the surplus production of both vegetables and staple food crops. Some farmers are active in farming associations; women are often more active than men.

The Municipality of Calinog is among the largest municipal contributors to total provincial rice, with Iloilo Province being the largest contributor. Corn is the second food crop in the municipality and a staple food of the Filipino population. Coconut farming in the Municipality of Calinog was the one of the smaller production. Rice, corn, vegetables, and fruit bearing trees are main sources of economic activity among farming communities in the upland areas, The people engage directly (e.g. farm owners, workers and traders) or indirectly (e.g. transport and logistics). Copra production is a year-round activity for producers, with about three harvests per year. Corn, rice, vegetables, and fruit bearing trees such as mango, Chico, and banana are major livelihood activities of farmers in the said Municipality.

Sugarcane farming mainly takes place in the Municipality of Calinog , which contributed over one fourth the total sugarcane production in the province of Iloilo.

The Impact of Typhoon Yolanda on the Agricultural Communities

When the Typhoon Yolanda landed in the Municipality of Calinog , harvesting of the rice, corn, vegetables, and fruit bearing trees secondary season crop had started.

The main season of corn, rice, vegetables losses have occurred in the Municipality of Calinog. Furthermore, the damaged paddy areas with the value of rice, corn, vegetables losses were concentrated in the nine barangays in the Municipality of Calinog . The major crops in the most badly affected areas of Calinog were banana, palay, vegetables and corn farms.

The most significant damage was to palay, vegetables and corn, where damage was recorded over a wide area is considered totally damaged.

The main losses for upland land communities were reported on standing annual crops and plantation crops, mainly vegetables, and fruit bearing trees such as mango, Chico, and banana. This is followed by damage to livestock assets and their livelihoods were completely destroyed.

While rice was largely harvested just before the onset of the crisis, milling activities may be affected due to lack of electricity and a greater reliance on more expensive generator electricity, as was observed in the Municipality of Calinog.

The damage of the typhoon, occurred in early November, will likely result in significant foregone production of the early

2014 palay crop season. For vegetables, and fruit bearing trees such as mango, Chico, and banana, given the time required re-establishing plantation production the losses in terms of foregone production are likely to be significant .

Themes

Males and females help one another in farm activities. Both males and females work in the farm with different roles. The males prepare the land; both males and females transplant and harvest crops; the major crops in the most badly affected areas of Calinog were banana, palay, vegetables and corn farms; the most significant damage was to palay, vegetables and corn, where damage was recorded over a wide area is considered totally damaged; the main losses for upland land communities were reported on standing annual crops and plantation crops, mainly vegetables, and fruit bearing trees such as mango, Chico, and banana. This is followed by damage to livestock assets and their livelihoods were completely destroyed. Finally, rice was largely harvested just before the onset of the crisis, milling activities may be affected due to lack of electricity and a greater reliance on more expensive generator electricity, as was observed in the Municipality of Calinog.

V. RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform may work hand and hand with other government agencies and NGOs in order to rehabilitate the farm; and Psychological debriefing be applied to farmers to strengthen their character to recover from the trauma brought by the typhoon Yolanda.

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MCNA 2013/12/20
(WB 2013)
(CRED 2012)