



Thesis Abstract

Factors Associated with Participation of Filipino Muslim Women in Seaweed Farming in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines

by Nuruddin A. Aming, Philippines, PhD in Community Development,
University of the Philippines Los Baños

The study analyzed Filipino Muslim women's participation in seaweed farming in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines with a total of 246 women farmers as respondents. Results of the study showed that many of the challenges faced by Filipino Muslim women of Sitangkai today is common among women in other municipalities of Tawi-tawi. Over the past years, social and economic changes have intensified the demands placed upon these women in their varied roles to improve their social and economic conditions in order to attain family solidarity and stability. The mature rural woman running a business or selling in the local market is acceptable behavior. Women's active participation in seaweed production in partnership with their husbands is another. Women farmers were equally involved with their husbands in the decision-making process on matters pertaining to household and seaweed farming activities.

Filipino Muslim women are faced with constraints to achieve their primary development goal of self-reliance due to their limited knowledge, skills, training, and education. They rely on learning through initiative and actual practice.

The study revealed that traditionalism and attitude toward non-seaweed farming were significantly related to the nature and extent of participation of women in seaweed farming operations. Likewise, average level of productivity of seaweed was highly and significantly associated to joint husband and wife decisions and the degree of exposure of women to various forms of media.