ASSISTED MARKETING PROGRAM: AN ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE EXCHANGE BETWEEN A LOWLAND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND AN UPLAND SWIDDENING POPULATION IN NEGROS ORIENTAL, PHILIPPINES

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Introduction

Like any other subsistence groups, the upland farmers need cash, a very scarce resource. The fact that not all the things the need can be locally produced, a portion of their subsistence production should have to be converted to cash by selling their marketable goods. Marketing their products is a real problem, therefore. The claim that subsistence farmers do not have a seriouproblem on marketing since they do not have surplus product is a myth. For the subsistence farmers, selling some of their products is just a way of obtaining cash to purchase goods that the cannot produce. These are the basic necessities that are essential for their very survival. Marketing of products therefore mains to be a very important activity for the subsistence farmers.

The Silliman University Research Action Development Program in the Uplands (SURADPU) is a project which aims helping the upland farmers in Lake Balinsasayao achieve a sinificant level of production through the application of apprinted farming techniques that will conserve the soil and maintain and improve its fertility. Considering that the soil is base for all agricultural efforts, the primary target of this plant program is the soil. Through the integration of tree crops, the ecological support on the farm can be further strengthened sintrees can render a number of hydrological functions especial on sites that are declared as watershed. The integration of tree crops will allow the farmers to restore certain, amount of vegetional cover on the ground while their roots can serve as nutried pump to the soil.

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^{*}The author wishes to thank the participation of the followin the production of this paper: Ms. Virgie Dioso, Ms. Velina Cadello Mr. Vernie Obate, Mrs. Angelita Genil, Mrs. Rossel Gutierrez and Jocelyn Tuble.

Tree crops which have food and cash value will likewise conibute to the expansion of food and cash bases for the local poplation. Hence, there is an expected increase in the overall roduction to the farmers. With the intended design of increasg production and meeting the actual needs of the farmers, marting the products of the Lake Balinsasayao farmers becomes real issue.

This paper serves to document the activities of the assisted retring program of the Lake Balinsasayao farmers. As such, will discuss the processes, the resources involved in the process the cash resources that are transferred from the lowland munity to the upland. While the paper will look at the ecolomophication of the process, it will also examine closely its alopmental implications of assisted programs.

EF BACKGROUND — THE LAKE BALINSASAYAO AREA

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With the following coordination; 123° 10′ east longitude and 21′ north latitude, the Lake Balinsasayao area is situated and 25 kilometers northwest of Dumaguete City. It is about meters above sea level.

Due to its volcanic origin, the farm top soil is considered in humus necessary to support various crops. Compared to eastal community, Lake Balinsasayao has a cooler ambience enterized by frequent rainfall. This type of environment the farmers to produce high priced vegetables that release temperature for their growth.

pockets of primary forests where ambience is similar to inforest areas in the tropics are still in existence. The higher altitude makes the area relatively cooler.

community is also endowed with a resource that has improved the nutritional condition of the local populative two lakes, Balinsasayao and Danao, provide a variety products that local population utilize for their protein

community is occupied by a population migrating from ands. They are mainly farmers who have been dislocated lowland due to increasing demographic pressure on land

resources. Some of the farmers were born in the area but their parents were lowland migrants. In short, the farming population is not indigenous to the local community and their lifestyle can be aptly described as lowland oriented.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

It should be noted that different places in a region have different capabilities and opportunities. Due to the peculiar combinations of their respective social and biophysical subsystems no two geographical sites will have completely similar available resources necessary for human survival. Likewise, on the temporal level, resources and opportunities from different sites may not necessarily exist at the same time. Hence, another source differentiating factor may be working. These differences in sources and opportunities have been conceptually defined as imbalances (Jochim 1981:164-204).

Imbalances of resources and opportunities could be brought about by a more complex process than what we can imagine. Com ceptually, three forces come to mind when we analyze "imbala" ces" closely. These forces are interacting dynamically producing a particular profile of resource availability. First, which is very apparent, is the peculiar biophysical endowment of a given gen graphical space. Their respective climatological, terrestrial and biological characterestics determine the kinds of botanical zoological life that can be grown in the area. Hence, their over resource base may not necessarily be the same. Second, since population sizes of various communities are not at all time similar, the respective demographic pressure (Boserup 1965: Special Control of the Control of th ner 1972) on reosurces will not necessarily be the same. greater the pressure, the less access people will have to resource and vice versa. Since the biophysical endowment of various graphical spaces is dissimilar, the carrying capacity (Brus 1975: Zabrow 1971 & 1975) of the areas will likewise not equal. And, since the demographic pressure on resources is pendent on the carrying capacity of the resource and the about lute number of people, one can therefore expect an extreme varied levels of demographic pressure between different graphical sites.

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The third force, emanates from the social system. Studies Adelman and Morris 1973; Beteille 1977; Cashdan 1980; Jenks 72; Smith 1976; Lenski 1966; Lynch 1969) on the way the cial system allocates and distributes the resources show that see can largely affect the accessibility of resources to the different sectors of the population. In fact, famine to certain sectof the population can take place while the overall resources allable to the other sectors is adequate due to bottlenecks ated by the more advantaged group of the population (Central stitute of Research and Training in Public Cooperation 1969; Todham-Smith 1962; Shepard 1975; Dirks 1980). Theoretically, and of class famine is created.

When these imbalances take place, corrective measures may implemented. Jochim (1981:185) calls these compensatory tegies. These include techniques such as redistribution of the urces through exchange (Healey 1978; Sillitoe 1978; McCar-1939; Sahlins 1965; Whitten and Whitten 1972; Jochim 1981) redistribution of people through various modes of spatial ement of the human population (Bedford 1973; 1980; Bowles); Carino 1976; Committee on Urbanization and Population stribution of the International Union for the Scientific of Population 1979; Goldstein 1976). In fact, warfare has considered as a way of correcting these imbalances (Jochim 194-201; Chagnon 1977; Driver 1969; Meggitt 1977; Vayda-

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since one of the forces that can produce imbalances is not but changing (i. e. population), it is possible that in a given y such problem may not exist at a given moment but at time. Its occurrence can be anticipated and predicted. The such circumstances, the population may implement present measures or anticipatory strategies (Jochim 1981:165) press the possible occurrence of the problem. Among the forms of animals, territorial control (Klopfer 1969) is an and among the human population, conservation measures (Moore 1957), storage of resources through social credit 1969; Schneider 1979; Piddocke 1965; Pryor 1977; Heind Ruddle 1974), and population control (Ammerman 1975: 1953; Casteel 1972; Hassan 1978; Carneiro 1960) have commonly reported.

The lowland-upland dichotomy of communities in the Philippines provides a case where imbalances in resources can be discerned. Their distinct biophysical features provide both communities. The swiddening population in Lake Balinsasayao and the faculty and staff of Silliman University represent the uplant and the lowland communities respectively. From the former community, fresh vegetables are produced which the latter needs very badly. Although the former is also consuming part of their produce, they have to sell the rest to obtain cash needed to but the essentials. In short, the upland population needs cash just as bad as the others. The faculty and staff of Silliman University use their cash resources to buy the foodstuff. It is on the base of this exchange of currency and energy (foodstuff) that their respective needs can be met.

ASSISTED INTER-COMMUNITY TRADING PROCESS

Since the demand for agricultural products usually originate from the lowland communities, goods from the upland will have to be transported down to the lowland for marketing. The farmers generally bring down their products in big bulk and was back home. In this regard, the farmers do not have the time sell their products direct to the buyers in the public market in other places through peddling. The farmers have no choice but to sell their products to the middlemen in the public marks Studies show that these middlemen may involve two or more hands before the goods reach the consumers. The longer chain of middlemen is, the lower the price the farmers get from their product. Our analysis on the energy wastage (see Cadellin 1986) by the Lake Balinsasayao farmers after the crops have been produced showed that poor marketing opportunities com lead to the loss of almost 50 percent of what has been produced This is caused by the tremendous underpricing of farm product since the farmers' customers are not directly the consumers.

In short, reaching the consumers directly will allow the farers to improve returns from their products. In this process, assistance toward conserving their soil and increasing production can be effectively safeguarded. Moreover, the effectively lallow us to maximize the benefits accruing to the farethrough a programmed development effort.

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An assisted marketing program for the farmers was finally signed. The idea was to bring the produce down to Silliman niversity campus and sell directly to the faculty and staff. The farmers had still their doubts as to whether or not this theme will work, so they can buy the essential goods they need and return home on the same day. The planners, on the other and, thought that these conditions can be adequately met due to following considerations:

- 1) given the volume of their farm products, the faculty and of Silliman University and some interested outsiders can wide adequate market for their products;
- 2) since there will be no other vegetable sellers, the farmers monopolize the community's market, hence the selling e can be shortened giving them enough time to go back to their ms on the same day;
- 3) since the buyers will be largely direct consumers, the mers will get a higher return from their products.

The ultimate goal of the assisted marketing program is to enthe Lake Balinsasayao farmers and the Silliman University and staff to help each other. While the Silliman Univerfaculty and staff provide this to the farmers, the farmers in will be providing fresh vegetables at a price cheaper than buyers usually pay at the public market of the city. A fast over of faculty and staff buyers can therefore be expected ing the selling time. This gives the farmers enough time to the goods needed before going home that same day.

Since the prices of vegetables are highly fluctuating, the Unity Research Center (as part of the program's services) alconducts a price survey (for all the commodities the farmare selling) at the public market in the morning of the day before their products are displayed for sale. These on prices will serve as guides for fixing the price of the during a particular sale day. Prices are always set between to 20% lower than the retail price at the public market.

The good points about the scheme can hardly be put across to the farmers. It had to be demonstrated that it will work. A test run had to be implemented. Hence, an experimental assisted marketing program was run from November 1985 to July 1986. The experimental assisted program had three purposes:

- (1) to show that the proposed marketing scheme will work
- (2) to show that they will make a profit;
- (3) to accustom the farmers to this new system of marketing so they will continue with it even after the assisted expermental marketing project ends.

To encourage the farmers to participate in the assisted experimental marketing project, the SURADPU provided a subsidized transport system to the farmers — a four-wheel vehice with a trailer. They only have to shoulder the fuel cost and driver's fee. These costs were shared among the farmers proportionate to the volume of products loaded. The result of the term was encouraging. Table 1 shows the income of 10 selections form his various farm products before and during the assisted marketing program.

It is very apparent that the assisted marketing program improved, on the average, by 70% over their original case proceeds from sale of farm products during their non-assistant marketing system. The change in cash returns reflected by 10 cases of farmers ranges from 47% to 114%. This clear suggests that if the upland farmers have regular adequate man keting channels, they can still largely improve their welfare of their farm produce. This condition is not only applicable the Lake Balinsasayao upland farmers but also to others have to contend with marketing problems associated with distant transport facilities and middlemen. The fewer middlemen volved, the better for the urland farmers. Since the middle men are still essential marketing channels especially for peasant farmers, the best that can be done in assisted market programs is to try to reduce their number to maintain a low price of produce for the consumers but on a profitable level the farmers.

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suc s from this From experience, one can see that the upland farmers are ready losing a good amount of resources due to poor farm manament. Added to this is the loss accrued from the less efficient arketing of their products. If upland development program is designed toward efficient use of resources, then one of its develment components should be on marketing. On the average, upland farmer is approximately losing 70% of the actual of his products without good marketing channel. The agood marketing channel, a farmer may need only one-half of Baguio beans to sell in order for him to buy a kilo of rice. Hout good marketing system, a farmer will need at least one of beans to sell to be able to pay for a similar quantity of rice.

How this marketing channel should be organized, however, problem. One channel of organizing this, may be through erative. Remember that this cooperative organization should live marketing activities not consumer activities. It appears buying what they need is not much of a problem as long as get the most out of their products. When they come down lowlands to sell, they can have easy access to trading cenwhere they can buy their household needs from their optiproceeds.

One word of caution will have to be made concerning cotive efforts among lowland migrant swiddening population e uplands. Considering the diversity of social and spatial of this group, they tend to be highly household-centered individually centered. Perhaps the diversity of their social spatial origins does not provide them a common reference for any collective effort. This suggests therefore that cowivism is one hard thing to develop among individuals of and swiddening population who come from various lowmommunities. In fact pooling their products together and them on a purely cooperative basis does not seem to work. samer wants to maintain definite ownership of the prodarketed. This is also caused by the rather highly diverse and quality of products produced by the individual farmdifferences will obviously bring diffentiated from the sale of their products. The farmers want to mainhighly individualized activity which I think is only fair.

Hence, any cooperative activity toward these marketing efforts should not attempt, in any way, to organize common disposation of produce and equal or even proportionate sharing of such proceeds. Lessons from other Southeast Asian countries with parallel problems seem to point to a similar direction.

RESOURCE EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITIES

The assisted marketing scheme went on for nine months. As mentioned earlier, a transportation system was provided during this period to start the system going. When the system shall have been established, as the program was originally conceive the assistance can be terminated and the farmers will have organize their own transport system. From August 1986 whether transport provision ceased, the marketing program has begoing on regularly up to this writing.

Regularity of Weekend Vegetable Sale

Every Friday of the week, the upland farmers bring the products to the university campus. Of the total nine months volved during the experimental assisted marketing programslightly over 50% of this period had a full 4-weekend sale month. However, the trend shows an irregular pattern Table 2).

The irregularity during some months was not caused cial factors but by natural ones. Obviously, beyond control the farmers. In February, a strong rain accompanied by winds hit the area causing some farms to be innundated were blown away by the gusty winds and washed down by The rain went on for more than a week causing the water from the lakes to rise. In fact, the Project Center was sub in water up to is rooftop.

The calamity took place during the second week of February so that during that month, there was only one weekend ble sale. Since the crops were wiped out to almost zero, can be sold in the later weeks of February and during the

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conth of March. Crops had to be regenerated which took the same around two months to do so. For two months, the farms had to depend on anything that was left on their farms by calamity.

Meanwhile, the crops began to regenerate and the products arted to be available during the third week of April. By then, evegetable sale resumed its original schedule but was disrupted a weekend non-sale since it was a summer break. The farmers edded not to sell their products since most of the students and faculty were not on campus They were on vacation. Finally, sale went on regularly again starting the second week of euntil the present.

Since the marketing system of their products seems to have already internalized by the farmers, they now look forward the weekends when they can get good cash from their products. Such anticipation has given them incentives to produce thence more efforts are now apparently put into their farms approve production. This is one positive result of the experital assisted marketing scheme.

Tarket Sectors Involved In The Assisted Marketing System

As originally planned, the faculty and staff of Silliman Unity will serve as buyers of the farm products. While it is that they turned out to be the major buyers of the products ally during the initial period of the activity, other sectors the community started coming in. Hence, slowly the market farmers was expanding.

The students found out that the produce are cheaper than sold at the market so they joined in with the other consumment on the outside community. Hence, there is an increase solute terms, in the number of buyers or customers. As a nuence, the expanding market has now reduced the selling (see Table 3). The reduction of their selling time is a posinaracteristic of this marketing scheme since this was one or concerns during the initial attempts towards this effort. The initial earlier, the shorter their trading activity in the city, and adaptive the activity is for them, since the farmers will

have enough time to buy for their own needs and time to travel back home in the same day.

Quantity of Resources Exchanged

Due to the peculiar way of measuring the volume of products during the sale, it is difficult to use a standardized unit. Three units of measurements were commonly used during the transaction (see Table 4). It is very apparent from Table 4 that the quantity of vegetable products that are sold on Silliman University campus has been increasing. This can be reflected from all indicators for a unified attempt on the part of the farmers to increase the volume of products to be marketed.

There are a number of factors that contributed to this attempt at increasing the volume of products sold. First, as we saw earlier, there is an increasing number of buyers. The buyers not are no longer limited to the population from Silliman University but include those that come from outside. Second, with the increasing demand, the selling time of the products is reduced by 50% giving them enough time to do their own purchase and go home right after. Third, the relatively higher prices that what the middlemen are paying for their commodities allowed them to derive bigger yield or return form their own products

On the average, during the first three months of our assistemarketing program, slightly below one ton of vegetable product (mostly succulents) from the upland reached the campus of Silman University. In addition, around 600 pieces of assorted croand 100 bundles of leafy vegetables are likewise sold. This viously must have helped the needs of the population on campus by providing them fresh and cheaper vegetable products.

In the succeeding months the quantity went up. Around one ton of succulents reached the campus while the volumes of least vegetables and other crops have increased by almost three times as much as that in the first three months of sale.

Obviously, this increased sale indicates that the quality the produce must be high. The diversity of the crops sold suggest an improved nutritional content of the total vegetable reperturated available by the farmers to the people in the lowland, is campus of Silliman University.

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While the people of Silliman enjoy the foodstuff, how much the farmers earn from this venture? There were two things hat we monitored during the sale: the quantity and the kinds products sold by the farmers during the sale day; and the mount of money that the farmers earn during the sale. Table 5 alls the story.

Again, on the basis of the total amount of money received, table shows the increasing revenues accruing to the farmers om the sale of produce to Silliman. For the first three months the assisted marketing program, more than \$\mathbb{P}2,000\$ have no pumped into the upland community and this went up almost twice that amount during the last six months.

With the increasing participation of the farmers in the sale the products on campus, there is an increasing spread of s cash to the farming households. It is very interesting to note while there is an increasing distribution of cash resources the greater number of farmers, there is still a corresponding rease in the absolute amount each participating farming housein the sale gets. For instance, during the first three months, were aroud 10 farmers on the average who are involved in sale per month. Each seller gets only, on the average, slightly ₹200. During the next six months, on the other hand, number of farmers selling their products increased by while the income per seller increased by slightly over This suggests that while there is a growing interest ing farmers to participate in the sale, there is also an insing desire by every participating farmer to increase the tity of the products they are selling.

ons Learned

What we saw is a process where two population groups are by the activities of resource exchange. It is a situation various forms of energy are transferred between two because of their peculiar needs and capabilities. This sinis oftentimes visible in most communities all over the pines. The lowland-upland gradient characterizing various are common in the Philippines due to the archipelagic of the country.

Considering that the upland communities are now increasingly becoming the target of extension and development efforts, the exchange of resources activities between these ecozones provides an excellent adaptive channels for development programs in the communities involved. In short, development efforts can hardly be considered, especially in the Philippines, as a mono-ecozone oriented assistance program. It is very apparent from our Lake Balinsasayao-Silliman University experience that development activities should be multi-sectoral to include the lowland communities to expand the network of beneficiaries who derive energy materials, and information from exchange activities for their own survival. The assisted marketing program surely gives the chance to both the upland and lowland populations to exchange their energies and materials in a more socially responsible manner since both sides get an optimum return from their own respective resources.

Looking at the sale as a kind of social transaction, such scioeconomic process would surely lead to the accumulation of information by the upland population on the economic processes in the lowlands. This will of course sharpen the strategies of the upland population toward the disposal of their resources in more productive manner. Information is one resource that can hardly be seen, as it is intangible; but is quickly made available to the farmers during the process of transaction.

Since the expected outcome of the assisted marketing program is mainly the optimization of returns from their products the motivational consequence of the program to the farmers two-pronged. First, it increases the number of participating farmers. If participation among the local population is accepted a good gauge of a program's success, then marketing schemes local products will surely improve the chances of success of other programs, it therefore, serves as an effective means of improving the distribution of benefits derived from the project to the local population.

Second, the population is enthusiastic to get more returned from their products. Our data show that while there is an increase in the number of participants, there is also a concomitation

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increase in the volume of products sold. If it were otherwise, the increasing number of sellers could have brought about a decrease in per capita income.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finally, some major points will have to be stressed here.

First, development efforts in the upland can be made more fective if an adequate marketing system of products is provided.

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Second, even subsistence farmers in the uplands will have sell part of their products to buy the goods they need from the tside. Surplus production is therefore not a pre-requisite for oviding marketing support to highly farming upland popation.

Third, the marketing program allows the farmers to check tential loss of revenues due to unfair and poor marketing sys-With efficient marketing program, the farmers can increase welfare they can derive from their products by around 70% the can otherwise be quickly lost by poor marketing nels.

Fourth, poor marketing channels for the upland will therecompound energy wastage. The loss of energy starts at
vation time and continues on to marketing time if victimby poor marketing channel.

Fifth, a good marketing support has a strong motivational on the farmers to participate in upland development efto improve production. This has tremendous implications upland development programs.

As a recommendation, it is very apparent that marketing erative, not consumer cooperative, has more salient role rengthening upland assistance programs. The mechanisms of development should be geared toward this direction to multifaceted and more positive effects for the intended ciaries.

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Table 1

Comparison of Cash Yields From Various Products Sold Before and During the Assisted Experimental Marketing Project

(Col 4-Col 3/Col 3 x 100) Cash Income From Sale Percentage Change of During Assisted Experimental Marketing (2) 53 47 98 85 69 Project Marketing Project During Assisted Cash Income Derived From Sale **Experimental** P163.10 P205 P160 P150 P145 P235 P111 P180 P125 P220 Marketing Project Before Assisted P 97.30 Experimental P160 P100 P 95 P 70 9 € P105 P100 06 ₫ P130 ₱ 63 20 kilos of Baguio beans; 12 kilos of tomatoes 15 kilos of yam; 10 kilos of sweet potato 15 k.los pepper; 7 kilos of eggplant 20 kilos of sweet potato; 50 pieces of sayote; 5 kilos of tomatoes kilos of eggplant; 3 kilos of pepper 10 bundles of camote tops; 10 15 bundles of vegetable fern; 25 kilos of Baguio beans; 5 10 kilos of Baguio beans; 100 Products Sold 300 pieces of sayote 250 pieces of sayote 25 kilos of yam pieces of sayote kilos of pepper

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Table 2

Months and Products Monitored During the Assisted Marketing Scheme for the Lake Balinsasayao Farmers

onths	Number of Weekends When Products Sale Took Place				Number of Varieties* of Products Sold			
ovember, 1985		4				2	1	s n
December, 1985		4				18	8	
auary, 1986		4				1	5	
Struary , 1986		1					9	
erch, 1986		0				1 5	0	
aril, 1986	4	2				1	5	8
1986		4				1	8	
Mare, 1986		3				1	6	ž.
1986		4				1	8	

^{*}These include products such as squash; tomatoes; eggplant; Baguio beans; et potato; apara; ubi; tops of edible fern, sweet potato, gabi, and sayote; petchay; sayote; bitter melon; bell pepper; onion; bananas; string beans; cado; coconuts; cassava; jackfruit; ginger; papaya, and white beans (abetas).

Table 3

Proportion of Outside Comparison of Market Sectors and Selling Time During the First Three Months and the Succeeding Months of the Assisted %0 10% Buyers SU Proportion of SU Student Buyers 15% 35% Proportion of SU Faculty & Staff Buyers 85% 22% Marketing Systems Number of Average Monthiy Buyers 67 105 Length of Selling (Hours) 9 Time the Assisted During the During the first three months of marketijng fourth and Periods of Marketing the later assisted Program scheme nonths

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Table 4

arious Measures of Quantity of Farm Products Sold During Two Periods of Assisted Marketing Program Compared

oiods During sisted Marketing ogram	Average Monthly Number of Pieces of Certain Products*	Average Monthly Number of Bundles of Certain Products**	Average Monthly Number of Kilos of Certain Products***
three			
sisted **keting			
meme	649	111	830
second months			
the			
sisted exeting			
Teme	1,763	151	951

^{*}This involves the products such as sayote; avocado; bananas; and coconuts.

This includes products such as tops of edible fern, sweet potato, sayote, gabi; string beans; and onion leaves.

This includes all the products reported in Table 2 other than those noted cotnoies 1 and 2.

Table 5

Monthly Average Sale of Products Col. 2/Col. 3 " Received From P303.20 ₱254.50 Cash Income Each Farmer (4) Comparison of Cash Returns Farmers Received From Their Products During Two Periods of the Assisted Marketing Frogram Selling Vegetable Monthly Average No. of Farmers 15 10 (3) Monthly Average Amount Received by the Farmers P2,545.00 P4,623.00 The second six months cf assisted marketing of the assisted mar-Two Periods of the Assisted Marketiing Program. Compared First three months keting scheme scheme

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