ASSESSMENT OF THE GARLIC PRODUCTION IN LUZON, PHILIPPINES

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The Philippine garlic industry has been declining for several years now. This study was done to assess the current condition of the different garlic-producing areas in Luzon and to identify the possible reasons for decreasing volume of production and area planted with garlic. The respondents for the study were garlic farmers from 17 municipalities/cities of Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4A. Results showed that extreme weather conditions, pest and diseases, and the market for locally produced garlic are the most commonly encountered problems that garlic farmers across the regions encounter. Continuous heavy rainfall during the planting season caused extreme damage to the crop (cited by 48% of the respondents). Also, infestation of different field and storage pests and diseases of garlic resulted in lower yield (cited by 38% of the respondents). Furthermore, the market for garlic is highly competitive due to the imported garlic varieties that are cheaper than locally produced garlic (cited by 33% of the respondents). Due to these conditions, farmers who used to plant garlic have switched to other crops such as squash. In other cases, they have chosen to sell their garlic as chives as this requires less input, and thus making it more profitable than producing bulbs as experienced in Batangas.

Keywords: garlic production, Luzon