

ETHNOLOGICAL PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (AETA/NEGRITO/ITA) IN CATANAUAN, QUEZON

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ABSTRACT

The Aeta, Agta or Ayta are an indigenous people who live in scattered, isolated mountainous parts of Barangay San Jose (Anyao), Catanauan, Quezon. An ethnological study was conducted to document the indigenous people (Aeta) integrated pest management practices employing the descriptive survey method. Based on the result, 80% were still practicing the traditional way of managing the pest without harming the human and environment, leaving the infected crops, manually picking the pest, burning or smoking, cultural practices like crop rotation, mixed cropping, and management of the surroundings. Crop loss due to pests is one of the major problems resulting to reduce production and income. The chemical control of pests is predominant, but a traditional pest control practice continues. The traditional pest control practices play a significant role in the management of agricultural land and it is an inevitable practice for sustainable agriculture. The proper control of pests minimizes economic losses and damage to the environment. Some of the respondents have insufficient skills and knowledge on the ethnological way of controlling pests and diseases using insect repellants like marigold (Amarillo), lemongrass (tanlad), oregano and by spraying wild chili mixed with water. Based on the result, it is recommended to conduct seminars, training, and workshops on Organic Agriculture as well as an awareness campaign on the effect of chemical fertilizer to humans and the environment.

Keyword: Aeta, Ethnological, Indigenous People, Pest Management, Practices, Descriptive Method, Philippines