Towards A Policy Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Land Management: Linking Urbanization and Land Classification in San Pascual, Batangas

Rona Bejasa Romasanta
https://orcid.org/ 0009-0002-2295-5028
romasantarona@gmail.com
Philippine Christian University Manila, Philippines

Abstract

Sustainable agricultural land management has become a critical concern in rapidly urbanizing communities where increasing population growth, infrastructure development, and economic expansion place significant pressure on agricultural resources. In many localities, the conversion of productive agricultural lands into residential, commercial, and industrial areas has contributed to declining agricultural productivity, environmental degradation, and challenges in achieving long-term food security. In the Municipality of San Pascual, Batangas, rapid urbanization has intensified the need for effective land management policies that balance economic development with environmental sustainability and agricultural preservation. This study examined the effectiveness of the policy framework for sustainable agricultural land management and its impact on urbanization and land classification in San Pascual, Batangas. Specifically, it assessed key components of the policy framework, including policy design and structure, implementation mechanisms, regulatory enforcement, stakeholder involvement, and monitoring and evaluation systems. The study further analyzed the influence of these components on land use change, land classification effectiveness, urban expansion, environmental sustainability, and local economic development. A descriptive-correlational research design utilizing a mixed-methods approach was employed. Data were gathered from 150 purposively selected respondents composed of local government officials, policy experts, farmers, community leaders, and residents. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, while qualitative insights were obtained through interviews and document analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of policy implementation and its outcomes. The findings revealed that the existing policy framework was generally effective in promoting sustainable agricultural land management, particularly in the areas of policy implementation and stakeholder engagement. However, challenges were identified in resource allocation, monitoring mechanisms, and the enforcement of zoning and land-use regulations. The study also found that effective policy implementation contributed to improved land classification practices, reduced uncontrolled urban sprawl, enhanced environmental sustainability, and supported local economic development. The research underscores the importance of integrated land-use planning, active community participation, and the adoption of technological tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to strengthen decision-making processes. It recommends enhancing regulatory enforcement, improving inter-agency coordination, aligning local policies with national development goals, and institutionalizing sustainable land management strategies to ensure balanced urban growth and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Keywords: Sustainable Agricultural Land Management; Urbanization; Land Classification; Environmental Sustainability; Land-Use Policy Framework.