

Seed Systems of Organic Agriculture in Tublay, Benguet, the Philippines

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This study examines the seed system of organic agriculture, identifies good practices and formulates recommendations for system improvement. It unfolds in three stages: (I) developing a conceptual framework to understand organic agriculture systems in the Philippines and their seed systems; (II) conducting field assessments at the case study site in Tublay to understand and analyse the specific local context; and (III) recognizing good practices and recommendations to foster learning and improvement in seed systems. By combining case study analysis, a literature review, semi-structured interviews, and surveys, this study identifies key actors and the types of seeds used, and the impact of existing legislative and regulative frameworks, and evaluates their impact on the availability and quality of organic seeds. This study further applies analytical tools to visualize and assess the data. Moreover, the study clarifies a number of critical challenges in the organic seed system, such as the limited organic seed production. This issue is influenced by the low market demand for varieties in organic quality. The study further identifies root causes and provides recommendations about how these can be overcome, such as: improving coordination among stakeholders; developing varieties for organic farming; market promotion for varieties feasible in organic quality; and capacity building for organic breeding.

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