

FARMING SYSTEMS IN MANLUM, OSLOB, CEBU

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A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the  
Graduate School  
University of San Carlos

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the degree  
Master of Arts in Anthropology

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by

Elpe P. Canoog  
March 1994

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## ABSTRACT

This study which was conducted in Manlum, Oslob, Cebu between July 1993 to January 1994 in order to better understand the dynamics of its farming systems aimed at providing answers to the following inquiries, namely: (1) to draw up a profile of the barangay in terms of its macro-level physical and cultural environments, (2) to describe the micro-level dynamics of the household - farm enterprise component interaction, (3) to determine the gender division of labor in the household maintenance and farm enterprise component-related activities, (4) to highlight existing indigenous technologies and practices, and (5) to formulate intervention schemes specifically addressed to the Philippine-German Cebu Upland Project (CUP), the institution where the researcher is connected with, so that within its remaining time of about three years it can still assist the Manlum people improve their living conditions.

Data gathering techniques included: (1) participant observation, (2) key informant interviews, and (3) semi-structured interviews and actual visitation of all the ninety-six households while validating the socio-demographic data provided by the three persons who were trained on Rapid Rural Appraisal at about three weeks prior to the arrival of the researcher in Manlum.

The salient points revealed in the study include the following: (1) Manlum's inaccessibility by the motor vehicles contributed to the almost lacking provision of government services to the area, (2) the existence of the land-claimant - actual tiller relationship despite the area's classification as "public land" due to the absence of any Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) representative who could guide the people in identifying ways to further enhance the latter's productivity, (3) the inability of the seventy-two per cent (72%) of the households to provide the "more sophisticated" needs of their adolescent members becomes a logical reason for the latter to migrate to the urban areas, most of whom, especially the females, ended up as househelpers, (4) the predominance of livestock tethering and grazing areas, interspersed with secondary growth vegetation and open areas primarily planted to corn it being the subsistence crop of the area, (5) all the farm enterprise components, encompassing crop production, animal production and off-farm activities, were all undertaken using the locally-evolved technologies in the area, (6) a great majority of the women have strong influence on the management of the household despite the general

notion that: "The men do the heavy tasks and the women for the very numerous lighter ones", and (7) the presence of a lot of technologies undertaken by some of the households which awaited the recognition from outsiders.

The intervention schemes that CUP can do will include: (1) the opening up of a road extending either from barangay Cansaloay or Can-ukban in cooperation with the local people, local government unit, and the Community Development Outreach Project, (2) the introduction of biological pest control method using the Trichogramma evanescens insect in controlling corn borer infestation in cooperation with the Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC), and (3) to encourage the women to get registered in the newly set up cooperative supported by the Central Visayas Water and Sanitation Project (CVWSP), and (4) to provide them training on swine care and management, and marketing strategies for cash crop production.

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