



I. BASIC INFORMATION

Program/Project/Study Title: Farming in the midst of climate change and other risks: a socio-economic assessment of the livelihood of abaca farm households in Leyte and Southern Leyte

Study Titles:

Study 1: Socio-economic valuation and livelihood analysis of abaca farm households in Leyte and Southern Leyte: opportunities, problems and challenges

Study 2: Social impacts of the abaca bunchy top disease and Typhoon Yolanda and adaptive strategies of abaca farm households

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Implementing Unit: National Abaca Research Center
Visayas State University
Baybay City, Leyte

Cooperating/ Collaborating Agency(ies): None

Location: Leyte and Southern Leyte

Duration: July 2021 to June 2023 (2 years)

Proposed Total Budget: PHP 297,538.8

Discipline: Socioeconomics

Classification: Socioeconomics Research

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Rationale

Abaca (*Musa textilis* Nee) farm households in the Philippines are among the most vulnerable to risks in agricultural production and variability in the weather. First, most of them are smallholders who are largely dependent on agriculture for income and have limited assets that can be used to cope with the impacts of hazards (Harvey et al 2014; Thorlakson & Neufeldt 2012). Second, they lack access to technologically advance diagnostics, agronomic practices, and disease management strategies to combat the persisting infection of the bunchy top virus in abaca farms (Vurro et al 2010).

In Eastern Visayas, there are have been two major hazards that have greatly impacted abaca farmers in the past 20 years. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the bunchy top disease wiped out 16,737 ha of abaca farms in Leyte and Samar, prompting officials to declare a state of calamity (Manila Bulletin 2003). An estimated P75 million in potential fiber was lost