

Acceptability and Participation on the Implementation of Irrigation Management Transfer Program (IMTP) in Davao Oriental

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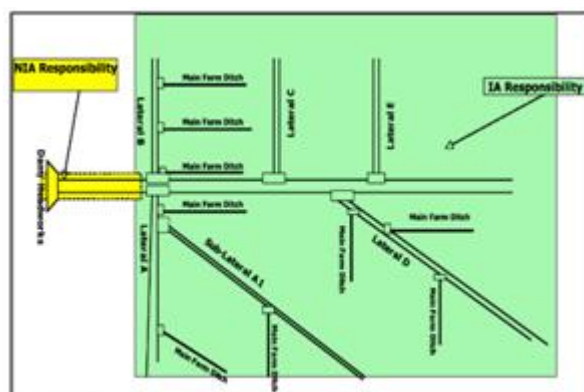
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Abstract: *The Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Program is a major component of the Rationalization Plan of the National Irrigation Administration. Outputs of this program are essential in the identification and positioning of adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce exposure and risk to the impact of lesser irrigated area. This study was conducted to assess the level of acceptability and participation of Irrigators' Associations (IA) in the implementation of IMT Program of NIA in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental. The respondents of the study were the four Irrigators Associations purposively selected that belong to the Model 1 contract of the IMT program. A five - point Likert Scale was adapted to measure the responses of the respondents of each item in the questionnaire. Survey questionnaires were distributed among the 175 stratified randomly selected respondents. Based on the results of the study, it was found out that the Irrigators Associations' behavior is practiced, evident, observed or manifested always in terms of the level of acceptability and participation. The efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of irrigation services to Irrigators Associations are crucial part of their operation especially if they will take over other operation and management activities previously carried out by NIA¹. With the results of this study, it was regarded that the level of IAs acceptability and participation on the implementation of IMT Program of NIA in the locality of Banay - banay, Davao Oriental, Philippines was significantly very high.*

Keywords: Acceptability, Participation, Irrigators Association, Irrigation Management Transfer Program, Irrigation Service Fee, Repair and Maintenance, Operations

1. Introduction

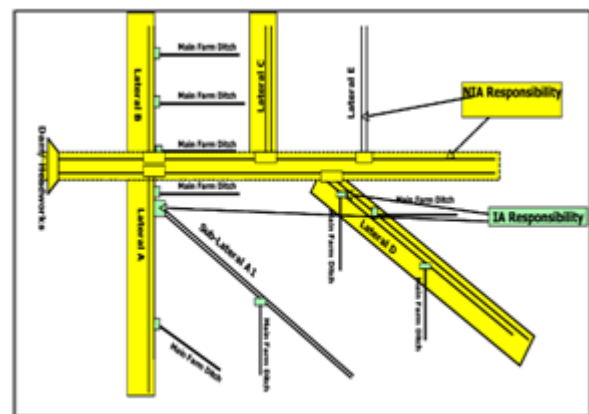
Irrigation is the artificial application of water to the land or soil. It is used to assist in the growing of agricultural crops, maintenance of landscapes, and re - vegetation of disturbed soils in dry areas and during periods of inadequate rainfall. Irrigation is also a great necessity for many Filipinos who has regarded agriculture as the foundation of their lives².



Source: NIA "Review of Irrigation Management Transfer Program", n.d.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is a Government - Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) primarily responsible for irrigation development in the Philippines. Its undertakings are on the sustainable development and management of water resources for irrigation consistent with the agricultural program of Department of Agriculture in particular and the national government in general. They investigate, study, improve, construct and administer all National Irrigation Systems (NIS) and collect the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) from their

users, which are necessary to finance the continuous operation of the system³.



Source: NIA "Review of Irrigation Management Transfer Program", n.d.

The Rationalization Plan (RPlan) for NIA was authorized under Executive Orders 366 (2004) and 718 (2008). NIA's RPlan aims to improve the delivery of service and productivity thru the merger of offices and streamlining their functions; and the creation of irrigation management offices out of the irrigation systems offices and provincial irrigation offices. The Irrigation Management Transfer Program is a major component of the RPlan⁴.

The IMT Program has four different model contracts. In Model 1, the NIA manages the entire irrigation system but transfers specific operation and management activities to the IA; canal maintenance, discharge monitoring, preparation of list of irrigated and planted areas, distribution of Irrigation Service Fee (ISF), and campaign for ISF payment by

farmers. Actual ISF collection may be an added responsibility depending on the capacity and willingness of the IA⁴.

Irrigators Associations are very important partners of the government in irrigation development and management. In the Irrigation Management Transfer Program of NIA, the IA is in charge of an efficient and effective management of the Operation and Management (O&M) of the irrigation system. Additionally, all the IAs within one irrigation system is organized in an IA Irrigators Association Federation. This federation is responsible for coordinating the O&M activities within one irrigation system⁵.

Because of these, it is important to assess the level of acceptability and participation of IAs in the implementation of NIAs IMT Program because the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of irrigation services to Irrigators Associations are crucial part of their operation especially if they will take over other operation and management activities previously carried out by NIA. This study was conducted to assess the level of Irrigators Associations' acceptability and participation of NIAs Irrigation Management Transfer Program in Banay - banay, Davao Oriental.

The Irrigation Management Transfer Program (IMTP) is a strategy that aims to increase the productivity of irrigation systems by transferring the responsibility for the management of these systems from the government to the farmers. This program has been implemented in various regions in the Philippines, including Davao Oriental. However, the acceptability and participation of farmers in the implementation of the IMTP in Davao Oriental have not been thoroughly studied. This research aims to assess the acceptability and participation of farmers in the IMTP in Davao Oriental.

2. Methodology

The data gathering procedure was done through survey questionnaire. The questionnaire contains statement from the

agreement based on the model 1 contract. The respondents respond by rating the items in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated and pre - tested by 40 respondents from Irrigators Association at Lupon, Davao Oriental specifically the Upper Paglaum Bagumbayan Irrigators Association that is under the IMTP - Model 1 contract.

Stratified Random Sampling was the sampling technique employed in this study. This is used when the population can be subdivided into several smaller groups or strata, and then samples are randomly selected from each stratum⁶.

This study only chose those Irrigators Associations' with Model 1 Contract in Banay - banay, Davao Oriental. There are four Irrigators Associations in the locale of the study that is purposively selected under Model 1 contract of the IMT program. There was a total of 175 respondents out of the 312 members of all the IAs in Banay - banay. The four IAs were fairly represented by the respondents, to mention; 52 from Bannawag Irrigators Association, 46 from Sarangay Farmers Irrigators Association of Rang - ay, 49 from Pag - asa Farmers Irrigators Association of Rang - ay and 28 from Golden Grains Irrigators Association.

3. Results

IA's Level of Participation on IMTP

Specifically, IA's level of participation on operation, repair and maintenance, and ISF collection gained a total mode of 5.0 which means very high. In general, the level of participation of the Irrigators Associations on the implementation of NIA's IMT Program was very high with a grand mode of 5.0 and entails that the behavior of the IA towards their participation to the program was practiced, evident, observed or manifested always.

Table 1: Irrigators Associations level of Participation on the Operations

Operations	F	Scale	Qualitative Description
1. The IA actively participates regular meeting and conferences called by NIA regarding operation problems, and formulation of solution.	163	5	Very High
2. The IA actively participates in skills trainings, seminars or workshops that may be called by NIA and other line agencies.	162	5	Very High
3. The IA shows commitment in formulating policies, rules and regulations on operations including appropriate sanctions for violators.	162	5	Very High
4. The IA shows commitment in enforcing policies, rules and regulation on operations including appropriate sanctions for violators.	92	4	High
5. The IA shows commitment in updating the master list of water users every cropping season.	138	4	High
6. The IA shows commitment in disseminating information on planting schedule to farmers within the IA area.	104	5	Very High
Over - all Mode		5	Very High

Table 2: Irrigators Associations level of Participation on the Repair and Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance	F	Scale	Qualitative Description
1. The IA actively participates for manual repair works on the structures, conveyance and distributions facilities and terminal facilities.	157	5	Very High
2. The IA actively participates in performing periodic maintenance that include removing and cutting of vegetation on canal embankments.	156	5	Very High
3. The IA actively participates in coordinating and cooperating with NIA in undertaking repair works that needs heavy equipment.	142	4	High
4. The IA actively participates in preventing any planting of trees that hinders way of easement.	135	4	High
5. The IA shows commitment in preventing any dumping of garbage or any waste inside canals or on the embankments.	123	3	Moderate
6. The IA shows commitment in preventing any construction of similar structures without prior authority from NIA.	160	5	Very High
Over - all Mode		5	Very High

Table 3: Irrigators Associations level of Participation on the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) Collection

ISF (Irrigation Service Fee) Collection	F	Scale	Qualitative Description
1. All IA treasurer or deputized collector is actively bonded.	117	5	Very High
2. The IA shows commitment in safeguarding and remitting ISF collections to the NIA.	159	5	Very High
3. The IA shows commitment in collecting ISF payments from farmers within its coverage.	161	5	Very High
4. The IA shows commitment in observing the NIA rules and auditing procedures.	138	4	High
5. The IA shows commitment in regularly disseminating collection progress to the IA members.	138	4	High
Over - all Mode		5	Very High

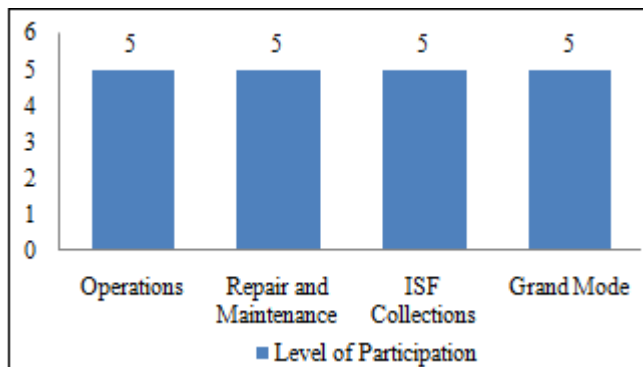


Figure 1: Irrigators Associations level of participation in the implementation of IMT Program

IA’s Level of Acceptability on IMTP

Specifically, IA’s level of acceptability on operation, repair and maintenance and ISF Collection gained a total mode of 5.0 which means very high. In general, the level of acceptability of the Irrigators Associations on the implementation of NIA’s IMT Program was very high with a grand mode of 5.0 and entails that the behavior of the IA towards the acceptability of the program was practiced, evident, observed or manifested always.

Table 4: Irrigators Associations level of Acceptability on the Operations

Operations	F	Scale	Qualitative Description
1. The IA disseminates information on water delivery within IA area.	116	5	Very High
2. The IA safeguards the water rights of all farmers regardless of the nearness of their farms to the head - gate.	117	5	Very High
3. The IA attends meeting and conferences called by NIA regarding operation problems, and formulation of solution.	108	5	Very High
4. The IA attends skills trainings, seminars or workshops that may be called by NIA and other line agencies.	153	5	Very High
5. The IA formulates policies, rules and regulations on operations including appropriate sanctions for violators.	86	4	High
6. The IA enforces policies, rules and regulation on operations including appropriate sanctions for violators.	83	4	High
Over - all Mode		5	Very High

Table 5: Irrigators Associations level of Acceptability on the Repair and Maintenance

Repair and Maintenance	F	Scale	Qualitative Description
1. The IA is responsible for manual repair works on the structures, conveyance and distributions facilities and terminal facilities.	157	5	Very High
2. The IA performs periodic maintenance that include removing and cutting of vegetation on canal embankments.	155	5	Very High
3. The IA coordinates and cooperates with NIA in undertaking repair works that needs heavy equipment.	92	4	High
4. The IA prevents any planting of trees that hinders way of easement.	114	5	Very High
5. The IA prevents dumping of garbage or any waste inside canals or on the embankments.	92	3	Moderate
6. The IA prevents construction of similar structures without prior authority from NIA.	152	5	Very High
Over - all Mode		5	Very High

Table 6: Irrigators Associations level of Acceptability on the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) Collection

ISF (Irrigation Service Fee) Collection	F	Scale	Qualitative Description
1. The IA is legally responsible for whatever ISF collection not remitted to the NIA.	160	5	Very High
2. The IA distributes the ISF bills to individual farmers and campaign for ISF payment.	100	4	High
3. The IA remits all ISF collections to NIA daily or at least twice a week.	162	4	High
4. The IA regularly submits weekly ISF collection report to the NIA IMO.	96	4	High
5. The IA safeguards and remits ISF collections to the NIA.	160	5	Very High
6. The IA collects ISF payments from farmers within its coverage.	162	5	Very High
Over - all Mode		5	Very High

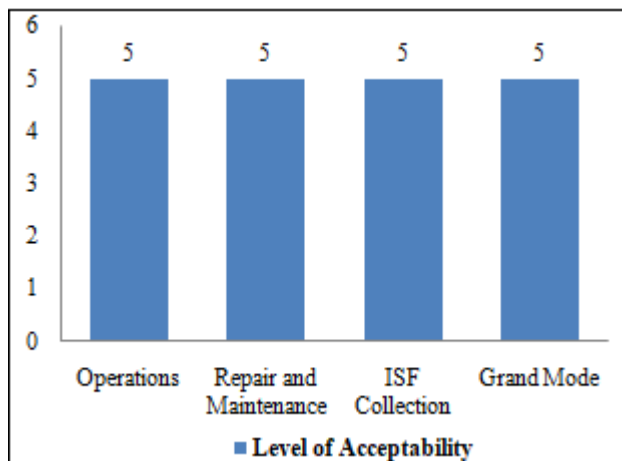


Figure 2: Irrigators Associations level of acceptability in the implementation of IMT Program

4. Recommendations

- 1) The IA may attend skills trainings, seminars and conferences regarding on the operation activities and the IA should be evaluated if they are capable of handling the operations.
- 2) In the repair and maintenance, the IA may consistently cooperate the NIA in terms of repair works and formulation of rules and regulation regarding on repair and maintenance.
- 3) The IA may be trained on how to make ISF Collection Report so that proper auditing procedures are followed.
- 4) The IA may encourage the member to adopt the program and to acknowledge their obligation regarding on the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system.

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