A polycentric approach to enhancing smallholder resilience in the Philippines: The MASIPAG Food Sovereignty Model

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Organic smallholders are cultivating resilient rice systems

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In the Philippines, organic rice systems are proving to be more climate resilient than conventional rice systems. This is according to a Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP), a methodological tool developed by a team at the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization.
Why is organic agriculture in the margins?
How are smallholders transitioning to organic?
Background

- Understanding Polycentrism
- Describing food sovereignty
- Defining smallholder resilience
Polycentric systems

- A bottom up, dispersed, and multilevel pattern of governing that is capable of enhancing “innovation, learning, adaptation, trustworthiness, levels of cooperation of participants, and the achievement of more effective, equitable, and sustainable outcomes at multiple scales” (Ostrom 2010: 552).

Jordan et al., 2018
Food Sovereignty

- The right of local people to control their own regional and national food systems (Via Campesina, 1996)

  - Focus on Food for People
  - Value Food Producers
  - Localizes Food Systems
  - Puts Control Locally
  - Builds Knowledge & Skills
  - Works with Nature

Nyéléni, 2007
Smallholder Resilience

- Resilience building is multi-scalar and interdependent; must address various shocks and stresses; and requires strengthening community capacities (Gunderson & Holling, 2002; Folke, 2006; Magis, 2010; Constas & Barret, 2013; Ross & Berkes, 2014)

Cabell & Oelofse, 2012
Polycentric-Food Sovereignty-Resilience Nexus

- Polycentric Systems
- Food Sovereignty
- Smallholder Resilience
The MASIPAG Model

- Decentralized Structure
- People’s Organizations
- Trial Farms
- Political Activism
- Collaboration
Farmers’ control of the seeds and associated knowledge in the diversity, productivity and sustainability of rice farming makes empowerment of farmers a reality. It is only through this method where farmers become not only passive recipients, but active participants in genuine development.

– Chito Medina

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