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ABSTRACT

A Tale of Two Varieties: GM Corn Cultivation in the Philippine Uplands

by Clarice Colleen Q. Manuel

Given the long existence and cultivation of GM corn, many other corn varieties have emerged and thus, the current knowledge on its benefits for the farmers need to be updated. Using primary data collected from small scale farmers in the Philippine Uplands, this research compares the original GM corn with a sister (and pirated) variety, Sige-sige corn, in terms of production, profitability, and risk. The results show that the two varieties are equally profitable despite GM corn being more productive than Sige-sige corn. This is explained by the larger amount of inputs used and required in the production of GM corn. In addition, GM corn is found to be a riskier variety than Sige-sige, implying that farmers are more likely to receive zero quasi-profits after months of cultivation.

About the Author

Clarice Colleen Q. Manuel is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics at the University of Namur, Belgium. Broadly, she is interested in conducting research in the themes of gender and development. In her current research, she is working on the adoption of GM corn and intrahousehold dynamics of married couples, paternal migration that is linked to the Socio-Economic Drivers of Land-Use Change in the Uplands (LUCID), a project supported by the the Academie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieure (ARES), the Institute of Environmental Science and Social Change and Ateneo de Manila University. Further, she conducts an analysis on the effects of left behind children and women's empowerment.