



**IFAR 2005 Professional Development Program
Completion Report
[800 words]**

Name of Applicant **ERLENE C. MANOHAR**

Title of Research: "Socioeconomic Assessment of the 'Poverty Reduction in Coconut Growing Communities Project in the Philippines: An IPGRI-PCA-CBOs partnership'"

Sponsoring CGIAR Center: International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)

I. Work Program goals achieved (maximum length: 200 words)

1. *Conduct of community socioeconomic baseline survey, resource inventory, farm planning using participatory tools.*

The study generated baseline socioeconomic and community resource data which were useful as reference points in subsequent monitoring and impact assessment. It also demonstrated that PRA participatory tools are imperative in effective project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of people-oriented projects.

2. *Design and test a participatory monitoring and impact assessment system*

Binary Logit Regression Analysis was successfully used to measure project performance in relation to technology adoption. *Comparative mean analysis* of income and the *paired samples t-test* showed that farm incomes doubled “after” the project. *Gini ratio* from the *Lorenz curve* measured the impact on income distribution and results showed *Maitum* with highly equitable income distribution among households compared with other sites. The participatory assessment protocol clearly showed that farm incomes significantly increased after the project and *poverty incidence* declined dramatically in four project sites.

3. *Capacity building for technology transfer process through training on the participatory research methodologies.*

The training of 10 community coordinators and 8 technical support staff was successfully undertaken in preparation for the implementation of the poverty reduction in coconut growing communities (PRCGC) project in 10 coconut-growing communities nationwide. Training on participatory methods enhanced the capability of the coordinators in facilitating the project.

II. Plans for follow-up (maximum length: 200 words)

The participatory methodologies adopted in the socioeconomic assessment component showed significant quantitative and qualitative changes in the quality of lives of the target beneficiaries that can be attributed to project interventions. Considering the broad scope of the PRCGC project, it is proposed that the contributory factors to socioeconomic changes due to the project interventions be further studied.

The proposed follow-up research study will involve a comparative study of the quantitative and qualitative impact assessment of the Poverty Reduction in Coconut Growing Communities (PRCGC) project with emphasis not only on technology adoption and poverty reduction but also on food security and community empowerment. These issues have to be addressed in community-based projects in order to achieve sustainable livelihood for marginalized sectors of the society. Case studies can be conducted in the six additional poverty reduction project sites to generate more information about farmers’ perceptions and constraints towards sustainable livelihoods.

As this study generated important reference data that will identify technology interventions appropriate to the circumstance of the poor project beneficiaries, the proposed follow up research and case studies are expected to generate more efficient technology transfer systems and strategies to make poverty reduction efforts more effective.

**III. Report budget utilization including whether budget was spent as planned
(maximum length: 100 words)**

The budget allocation as proposed was utilized according to the line item of expenditure. Highest expenditure was on traveling and monitoring especially on data processing and analysis. With the location of the project sites in three islands of the country the budget for airfare expenses was the highest. Details of the expenses as of February 28, 2006 are presented below:

Item	Proposed Budget (\$)	Actual Expenses (\$)	Unexpended Balance (\$)
Stipend	2,000	2,000	0
Travel	3,000	2,763	237
Supplies & Materials	1,000	820	180
Publication	600	263	337
Monitoring /supervision	1,500	1,280	220
Dissemination of Information*	1,000		1,000
Office expenses	500	450	50
IPGRI's Administrative Cost	400	400	0
TOTAL**	10,000	7,976	2,024

Note: * To be used for attendance to National Scientific Conference this coming May 8-10, 2006

** The unused balance of \$1024 will be used to fund follow-up activities as outlined in Section II

IV. Assessment of the fellowship experience and general comments.

(maximum length: 300 words)

The fellowship experience reflects an effective partnership with the community in the joint assessment of the target farmers' resources, priorities and constraints in achieving sustainable livelihoods. It is in this context that this research study successfully provided the means to develop protocols to monitor and assess the socioeconomic impacts to further the effectiveness and sustainability of the project. It generated a system to assess IPGRI's project performance in bringing coconut-based technologies to rural communities. Technical recommendations that emerge from this fellowship can be made with confidence since the study was based on the feedback systems through the adoption of participatory tools. Moreover, the capability, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of PRCGC project were analyzed and validated quantitatively.

Achievement cannot only be measured on the basis of valuable information generated. Achievement is also measured by the enhanced self-esteem gained by the scientist during the conduct of the research study. This is also an efficient way to boost the ideas of scientists relevant to a particular research undertaking. Capability building and development of processes as major objectives of this fellowship enhanced further the effective implementation of the PRCGC project.

Regarding the linkage mechanism of the IFAR fellowship, linking and networking with other organizations is an effective means of maximizing resources to generate valuable research outputs to achieve interrelated goals. This has avoided duplication of research and development efforts while being cost-effective.

In general, the fellowship delivery system was systematic and well-planned at various levels. Even the provision for financial support was adequate on a per activity basis. Perhaps the only drawback in this fellowship was the time allotment for a period of seven months. It is desirable to have optional durations to suit the extent of the project activities to be undertaken depending on the country situation.