

## **SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE 2020**

### **OPEN FORUM**

**Dr. LS Sebastian**, Philippine Rice Research Institute: First of all, I have a disclaimer, I am not a social scientist so please pardon me for my language if I do not use your lingo very well. I am one of those research managers who advocate a strong social analysis of whatever we do especially in our R&D activities. I think with the Philippine Agriculture 2020, there is a need for us to really make a very good analysis of our social situation and incorporate this in our plans. I say this based on my experience and especially when we are dealing with farmers just like what Dr. Castillo has mentioned while ago. Most of them are very poor in their social preparation and the social analysis of this group is very important if you are to succeed in recommending any good plan or any technology in the future.

Dr. Castillo mentioned for example the “abroad syndrome” of farmers. I think that this is also true among us planners and researchers. Sometimes we also have that abroad syndrome, not because we want to go abroad but sometimes we tend to compare ourselves with other countries and then prepare plans that are either better or even grander than what Thailand or Indonesia, our neighbors have, but we forget our people, the Filipino. So there is a big gap between lands that we are preparing and the people you would like to have. So, I think Dr. Castillo and her group, I hope, will do a more thorough analysis in setting the framework for the Philippine Agriculture 2020 because I believe that if we will fail in the analysis of the social and political aspects of our country, our plan will be as grand as it has been and it will never be implemented by future generations and it will probably fail also just like other plans that we have today.

**M. Lim**, Former Undersecretary: I have a question which is more directly concerned to Dr. Yorobe. We know that in general, cooperatives and similar farmer groups lack preparation in enterprise and this has therefore resulted in a very high level of failures. My question is does PA 2020 adequately address this problem of social preparation of farmers for enterprise particularly farmer groups?

**Dr. J Yorobe:** PA 2020 mentions the importance of farmers organization but it has not mentioned anything about social preparation for this organization to succeed. Actually, the concept of this collective work has already been introduced before. If you can remember the “selda system” introduced by the Department of Agriculture during that time. I do not know if it was Secretary Tangco or Secretary Sebastian who introduced it but the number is only very small compared to a cooperative system.