

## Questionnaire Pretest: Suggestions from the Field

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The survey questionnaire for the project “Farmers’ perceptions and attitudes toward seed health for crop management” was pretested in Pandac, Pavia, Iloilo. The goals of the pretest were to determine the reactions of rice farmers to the questionnaire, estimate the time needed to complete the interview, validate the translation of key technical terms used, find out whether the respondents could understand the technical terms, and ascertain whether the sequence of the questions solicited the desired information. A survey enumerator was hired to assist in pretesting the instrument with 15 rice farmers.

The following observations and corresponding recommendations were made:

1) In this village, the first and second crops are both grown during the wet season, so the reference to the first one as the wet season crop and the second one as the dry season crop does not apply.

*Recommendation:* Provide the necessary indicators for the interviewers to guide them if they are confronted with decision problems in this area.

2) The second cropping was not realized because of drought (question 4: Last year for the second cropping, what was the area on which you direct-seeded and/or transplanted? Some farmers did not plant rice and instead planted watermelon or tomatoes.

*Recommendation:* Point this out to the interviewers during the orientation.

3) In question 5 (What cropping pattern did you practice?), the farmers found the term “cropping patterns” difficult to comprehend. The question cannot be properly answered without explaining the term or making it a leading question.

*Recommendation:* Modify the question to instead ask what crop was grown in a particular season. The farmers also mentioned a third cropping season during which they plant crops” such as watermelon, tomatoes, and mungbean in lieu of rice.

4) Question 6 (Last cropping season, how much did you spend for rice seeds, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizer, irrigation and labor for pesticide application?) entailed a lot of time to answer because the interviewer often had to add up the figures given by farmers. *Recommendation:* Remind the interviewers to bring calculators with them.