

Food Safety Management and Compliance among Selected Cacao Enterprises in Davao City

Lim, Y.A.C.¹, De Castro, M.M.E.², Depositario, D.P.T.³, Nuñez, C.L.R.⁴

Abstract:

In the Philippines, 80% of national output is produced in Davao Region and thus it is known as the cacao and chocolate capital of the Philippines. Due to its processed form being of high quality, cacao is poised to be one of our top export commodities. Food safety standards must however be met by cacao processors for our chocolate to qualify for export. The study assessed the food safety management practices and compliance of selected Cacao producers and manufacturers in Davao City. A multi-case qualitative research design was employed through interviews, survey and ocular inspection in the selected enterprises.

The findings revealed that compliance to food safety standards were highly driven by the market/buyer side of the chain. Most of the cacao enterprises perceived their operations as heavily compliant to food safety standards. However, the unavailability of equipment and lack of consistency of food safety policies were some of the identified issues among the processors. In addition, farmers' practices relied heavily on extensive experience than on properly documented procedures in the production chain. The acquisition of equipment crucial in ensuring food safety like mechanical dryers, remedial training for employees and managers on food safety, formulation of formal food safety written policies, and formalizing a traceability system for enterprises are recommended.

¹ Undergraduate, Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship, University of the Philippines Los Baños

² Assistant Professor, Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship, University of the Philippines Los Baños

³ Professor, Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship, University of the Philippines Los Baños

⁴ Assistant Professor, Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship, University of the Philippines Los Baños