

# Colonial Encounters Towards Agrarian Change: A Study of the Agricultural Landscape in Bukidnon During the American Period, 1901-1935

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**Abstract:** *This paper seeks to present how the interaction between the native populations and American colonizer drastically altered the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. As integrated into the colonial agricultural system, Bukidnon evolved into a modern economy. The American colonists brought a new set of agricultural policies, which led to the establishment of agricultural colonies, major plantations and new crop productions, which profoundly changed Bukidnon's agrarian structure. The agricultural development of Bukidnon during the American colonial era is the main subject of the study. It highlights the cooperation between the native people and the American colonists, asserting that traditional farming and colonial imposition shaped Bukidnon's agricultural landscape. The researcher has effectively consolidated primary sources and utilized secondary materials to conduct a thorough analysis of the study. By employing qualitative data generated through archival research and a historical-narrative approach, this study presents the relationship between Americans and natives within the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. This research answers the following questions: What was Bukidnon's agricultural landscape prior to American colonization? What key agricultural policies did the Americans implement? How did the colonial interactions with the natives shape Bukidnon's agricultural landscape? Therefore, this study deals with Bukidnon's agricultural development in the period of American colonial rule. It stresses the role of collaboration in the interactions of natives and American colonizers, arguing that the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon is the result of both colonial imposition and sedentary farming practices. The results of the study offered a deep perspective on the effects of the American period in Bukidnon, and their continued influence on agricultural problems and practices today.*

**Keywords:** Agricultural Colony, Economic History, Agrarian Integration, Bukidnon 1907-1935

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## INTRODUCTION

The arrival of the American colonizer in the province of Bukidnon brought new agricultural practices that made way in the province's farm system, leading to the changing of the socio-economic factors in Bukidnon. Colonial integration of Bukidnon's American rule and agricultural system permeated into modern agrarian techniques, cash crops economy, and commercial agriculture to development. As should be apparent from this story, the formation of the native population of Bukidnon and the settlement of American colonialists in the area was shaped by the agricultural system in Bukidnon and the agricultural change in the province at the time.

A focus of American agricultural policies intended to utilize the region's natural resources for economic benefit, Bukidnon is renowned for its fertile lands and diverse ethnic groups, particularly the *Lumads*, who were acknowledged as the original inhabitants of the area before any colonial presence. The introduction of cash crops and commercial agriculture significantly altered traditional subsistence methods and land use patterns among the native population. However, these colonial policies imposed on the people of Bukidnon clashed with the traditional norms of their economic and socio-cultural aspects, including cash crop production, communal ownership, swidden, and subsistence agriculture. Bukidnon became the food basket of Northern Mindanao due to the establishment of farm schools and the implementation of colonial policies, which also increased the region's production of corn and rice.

The American colonial government occupied Bukidnon in 1907 when it was placed under the administration of the Department of the Interior, headed by Dean C. Worcester. As a sub-province of Misamis, the inhabitants of Bukidnon( *or Bukidnon's*, in this study) experience exploitation at the hands of businessmen who monopolize crops in the region. Accordingly, this prompted the Americans to occupy Bukidnon. Prior to the arrival of the Americans, the people of Bukidnon were living in poverty and relying solely on whatever root crops they could grow in their hillside *kaingin*. They produced a limited supply of food, such as rice and corn, and their primary source of these was trade with the Misamis coastal regions. In order to raise food production in the province, colonial administrators introduced new farming techniques as the first step in mitigating the agricultural problem. The locals of Bukidnon responded to the colonial government's food production initiative. To cultivate the grassland, the American government provided plows and other equipment to the people of Bukidnon. New government policies were created, schools were established, and new crops were introduced. The American era helped diversify Bukidnon's agricultural pursuits; small-scale farmers were drawn to subsistence farming by the prospect of land ownership and financial opportunity, and they grew various crops to

maintain food production. As a result of colonial policy, cash crop production increased, especially for commodities like coffee, sugarcane, and tobacco, which were profitable market exports.

It was evident in the province that change was rapid, particularly in improving the agricultural sectors. On the other hand, Commissioner Dean Worcester established cattle holdings in the area, and later, the Del Monte Company introduced a pineapple culture in the province. The American colonial rule laid the foundation for Bukidnon's emergence as a key agricultural hub in the Philippines. The agricultural system in Bukidnon became a point of interaction between the natives and the American colonizers, which influenced the development of agricultural practices in the province and created a hallmark during the history of this period.

This thesis intends to present American agricultural development in Bukidnon, with the primary goal of determining the impact of these American policies on economic growth during the American colonial period and its effects on agricultural production. It also emphasizes the entry of the United States as the new colonial master of the Philippine archipelago, with the discussions of the newly formed policies implemented in the region and the introduction of cash crops, new farming practices, and commercial agriculture that influenced the traditional subsistence farming practices of the natives in Bukidnon.

Moreover, this study discusses the period from 1901 when the Americans officially occupied the country and implemented various land policies. The discussions will end in 1935 when the Philippine Commonwealth was inaugurated. The study limits the discussions of the cultural exchanges between the natives and colonizers and the sociocultural impact, including the way of life of the natives and the complex relations of the migrants and the colonizers in Bukidnon. The study limits the availability of archival materials in accessing and interpreting necessary data, considering the gaps and biases in the historical records. It recognizes the interpretation of data or historical narratives and sources when dealing with incomplete information. Historical documents, especially those written by colonizers, may contain biases that could affect the interpretation of events and policies. Efforts will be made to cross-reference sources and include the native perspectives. Complete objectivity may be challenging, but the researcher presents the necessary data. The limitations of this study aim to provide a focused and balanced discussion of the colonial and native interactions that shaped Bukidnon's agricultural landscape during the American period.

This study focuses on developing Bukidnon's agricultural landscape during the American period 1901-1935. The study holds significant importance for the following reasons: First, the study explores the impact of American agricultural policies and practices on the

traditional farming practices in Bukidnon and how this new colonial system helps the local economies and livelihoods of the province. Second, by using archival research to shed light on the changes in Bukidnon's agricultural sector during the American period, the study advances scholarly knowledge of Philippine colonial history and agrarian studies. Lastly, this will serve as a reference for future researchers interested in agricultural history during the American period.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study is qualitative historical research that will employ descriptive analysis to identify the data gathered from the sources and examine and discuss the selected research questions. This research will be divided into two main phases: data collection and analysis. The available data or archival materials identify recurring themes, events, and patterns related to native-colonizer interactions in shaping the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. This study will employ archival work as one of the primary means together data, and it will not include the conduct of interviews, for the focus of the study is during the American period. The researcher used the Report of the Governor General of the Philippines (1921- 1931) to the Secretary of War (1909-1922). These reports provide comprehensive information about agricultural policies and their implementation in governance. The Reports of the Bureau of Agriculture give a detailed account of agricultural activities, the introduction of new farming techniques, and government initiatives in Bukidnon. Missionary and Religious Records are also used to examine the reports and letters from missionaries documenting their observations and interactions with the locals of Bukidnon. Dean Worcester's Philippine Past and Present (Volume I and II) were also used in this study. These sources were mainly retrieved on websites such as Hathi Trust, Internet Archive, Digital Library Collections, Census of the Philippine Islands, University of Michigan Library, and Reports from the Philippine Commission. The accounts of Cole, Heiser, Worcester, and other American officials were also considered primary sources. Journals, articles, and books written by the Lao, Onabia, Demetrio, and Edgerton were considered secondary sources in this study. The researcher also used the collection of personal narratives of the natives of Bukidnon and their experiences related to agricultural practices and changes during the American period from the studies of the ethnographers and local historians on the native peoples of Bukidnon, focusing on their traditional farming practices and responses to the colonial policies in Bukidnon.

The Americans introduced agricultural colonies and implemented new policies from 1901-1935. It will further discuss the impacts of such policies on the native traditional agricultural policies, mainly on the changes of traditional farming practices and their adaptation to commercial farming, cash crops, and impact of these towards the native traditional subsistence practices. In addition, the historical-narrative approach presents the

chronological narrative that discusses the events and developments observed in the archival records. This narrative will not only outline the sequence of historical narratives but also provide the implications of how the relationship between the American colonizers and the natives of Bukidnon shaped the agricultural landscape and provide insights into the causes of the introduction of new agricultural policies and their implementation and its broader implication in the agricultural changes in Bukidnon. As an archive method, the researcher will rely on primary documents such as official government records, colonial reports, legal documents, and memoirs to provide a firsthand perspective on native-colonizer relations. The researcher will visit local archives within the province of Bukidnon to access local sources that will provide a historical perspective on how colonial policies were implemented in the province. The researcher will develop a framework based on the key themes related to the natives' and colonizers' interaction, particularly the agricultural policies, economic activities, the introduction of new farming techniques, and the new crop production in Bukidnon.

The researcher will examine those themes through archival documents and facilitate analysis and comparison. The researcher will undergo contextual analysis to provide the veracity of the documents within the historical context of the American colonization in Bukidnon and the interactions of the natives of these agricultural policies. The use of cross-reference information to validate the interpretations of the document and to interpret the findings based on the broader historiography of the agricultural history of Bukidnon during the American colonial rule and the interactions of the natives to the new agricultural policies within the province to contribute new insights and perspective based on the archival evidence and available primary documents.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

### **The Role of Geography in Agricultural Production in Bukidnon**

Bukidnon is a province in the central regions of Mindanao that forms an integral part of the Philippines agricultural landscape. The geographical features of the province, which include the highland plateaus, fertile lands, and steep topography, have all contributed to the making of the province one of the most significant agricultural hubs in the country.

Bukidnon is often called the "food basket" of northern Mindanao since its vast fertile lands and favorable climate have contributed to its development as a major agricultural producer. The region has a relatively high plateau, one of the province's essential features. The Bukidnon plateau is ideal for rice, corn, sugarcane, and high-value commercial vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, cabbage, and tomatoes. At the same time, pineapple and banana are used to produce export products. The Bukidnon plateau is a prominent feature that



provides a large, relatively flat area surrounded by mountains. The province is also boarded by prominent ranges like the Kitanglad Mountain Range and Kalatungan Mountain Range, which influence the climate and benefit specific crops. The rich soil of this province and the evenly distributed rainfall provide sustenance for farming, which is an important factor for successful crop production. Several major rivers flow through Bukidnon, including the Pulangi River, which traverses through the northern and southern parts of the province towards the Rio Grande of Mindanao. These rivers served as essential waterways in the region. These waterways are pivotal for irrigation for the natives in Bukidnon to practice sustainable farming. Efficient irrigation system is essential for agriculture productivity. The native agricultural practices such as wet-rice in the valley relied extensively on these river systems for the irrigations of their crop.

In Bukidnon, for instance, the Pulangi River and its tributaries are still Important waterways today that sustain high crop yields to achieve food security. Irrigation systems help regulate water for rice fields and support the cultivation of crops like corn, sugarcane, and vegetables. The irrigation infrastructure development during the American colonial period helped boost agricultural productivity by integrating modern farming techniques with traditional irrigation practices. The highland regions and the tropical temperature of Bukidnon is able to produce a wide range of crops and raise cattle. Higher elevations have a cooler environment, which is ideal for raising livestock like pigs, goats, and cattle. Warmer temperatures in lowland regions encourage the raising of pigs and poultry, giving nearby farmers another source of income. The geographic conditions of Bukidnon support the crop productions and potential place for cattle farming that contributed to the economic development in the province.

The geography of Bukidnon was important in determining colonial agricultural practices during the American colonial period. The American administration and the foreign businesses were interested in the area because of its natural resources and climate, which made it suitable for cultivating commercial crops. The main objective of American colonization was economic progress. They implemented a land policy intended to boost agricultural production in Bukidnon. The geographical features of Bukidnon, such as the rich soils and the plateaus' moderate climate, were significant to the introduction of cash crops like sugar, tobacco, and abaca(hemp).

The introduction of commercial crops (such as coffee, bananas, and pineapples) for export was directly tied to Bukidnon's ideal farming conditions. Bukidnon's favorable climate and soil became central to the American goal of transforming the Philippines into an export-oriented agricultural economy. However, these changes led to the native's traditional farming practices being displaced as the traditional methods of agriculture integrated into the broader colonial agricultural policies and practices. In the case of

Bukidnon, these changes are both a curse and a blessing to the natives. The former led to the disintegration of their traditional farming practices, and the latter made progress toward sustainable agricultural production.

The geography of Bukidnon continues to drive its agricultural production and economic development. The fertile land and favorable climate have allowed Bukidnon to retain its status as a leading agricultural province in Mindanao. The province is a major producer of crops such as corn, rice, coffee, pineapples, and bananas, with large-scale commercial plantations operating alongside smaller family-owned farms. Furthermore, the geography of Bukidnon has influenced its economic structure. Bukidnon remains an important source of food and agricultural products for the rest of Mindanao and beyond, and its agricultural systems continue to evolve in response to both global market demands and local needs.

The geographic conditions of Bukidnon served as a factor for agricultural growth that became a way for the colonizers to integrate dominance and implement various agricultural policies and establishment agricultural colonies that aimed to foster the region's economic potential. The region's tropical climate could also be used to raise livestock market. The geography of Bukidnon contributes to the foundations of several plantations and industries that provide the economic vitality of the province. Understanding the Bukidnon's physical landscape and its agricultural activities gain knowledge as to how the geography drives growth and shapes wider opportunities as the province's geography is interlinked with its economic development.

### **Bukidnon before the American Colonization**

The province of Bukidnon has a diversely cultural and historical identity from its indigenous inhabitants, geographical features, and historical developments. Before the American colonization, various indigenous groups were living together in Bukidnon; they are known as *Lumads*, who are believed to be the original inhabitants of the region. In order to avoid Spanish influence, these groups sought refuge in Bukidnon. The *Lumads* were displaced from their coastal villages by the *Dumagat* or the (people of the coast), particularly the *Bisayans*. When the Spaniards arrived, it exacerbated the situation for the natives since they put in their colonial system that further displacing the native population.

The Bukidnon people trace their origins to pre-Islamic Malay population located along the southwestern coast of Mindanao. The name Bukidnon is culturally one with the so-called Manobos, who happened to inhabit the southern section of the province. This was evident in the *Ulahingan* and the *Olaging* folk epics of the Manobo and Bukidnon. The province of Bukidnon was considered a traditional territory of the Manobo and Bukidnon (*also known as Talaandig and Higaunon*) tribes. Pre-colonial Bukidnon's cultural beliefs and practices were deeply intertwined with their spiritual beliefs and connection to the land.

The Bukidnon natives believe that they are a chosen people, protected by their Supreme Being, "Magbabaya," through any flight of circumstances and tests of faith. The Bukidnon people venerated four deities associated with the cardinal directions: *Magbabaya*, the supreme deity residing in the West; *Dumalongdong*, situated in the North; *Onli*, in the South; and *Tagolambong*, in the East, who were considered lesser gods. Their socio-cultural practices have closely mirrored those of other native groups within the country, suggesting a shared Asian racial and cultural heritage. The Bukidnon people initially settled in the Bukidnon province before the Spanish colonization of the Philippines.

The term "*Bukidnon*" was coined by Jesuit missionary Jose Maria Clotet to describe the native inhabitants of the region. Before Bukidnon became a distinct province, it was part of larger administrative region of Misamis from 1860-1907. During the Spanish administration, the colonial government focused its control on the lowland areas, attempting to Christianize and integrate the native people into the colonial system. The pervasive impact of Spanish colonization and the influx of migrants from the Visayas compelled the natives to relocate from the lowland settlements to the mountainous areas, leading to their label as "*Bukidnons*," or people of the mountain.

The Bukidnon people sought to safeguard their traditional practices and avoid colonial influences. Bukidnon was incorporated into a military district of Misamis during the Spanish imposition of a politico-military government in Mindanao. Malaybalay gained prominence and was selected as the capital of Bukidnon due to its strategic location. During the Spanish Occupation, the town of Malaybalay was called *Oroquieta del Interior*, which the natives widely accepted. Under the Misamis government, Bukidnon witnessed a significant external influence, particularly the Spanish missions, to integrate the province into the new colonial settings by implementing various religious missions and military presence. The administrative framework and the system of land management practices implemented during this period laid the development of Bukidnon under American colonial rule.

Despite Spanish attempts to incorporate the native populations of Bukidnon into the colonial framework, they managed to maintain their political systems. The physical isolation in the hinterlands was a challenging part for the Spanish authorities to implement their total authority while at the same time advantageous for the natives as a way to preserve their culture and tradition. The natives practiced a government system rooted in kinship ties and community consensus. Politically, they followed the *Datu* system, where the "high datu" operates on a regional level as the province was divided into major regions headed by a regional Datu. The native community was led by a *Datu*, a tribal chieftain who held both political and spiritual authority, ensuring that the native way of life remained largely intact despite external pressures from the colonizers. When the Jesuits arrived in Bukidnon



they were among the first to establish missions that reflected a broad historical narrative of Spanish colonization and missionary work.

The Bukidnon's were heavily influenced by the Philippine lowland culture when the Jesuits regularly visited the province. Long before they arrived in the 1870s, the Bukidnon's had established contact with outsiders, particularly the north coast trading state or *negeri*, of Cagayan, by the seventeenth century. They produced cacao, corn, tobacco, and coffee, which they bartered for Chinese jars, cotton, cloth, salt, fish, and other goods. During the 1880s, the Jesuits made vigorous programs for resettlement and Christianization. They created the first mission in Sumilao in 1890 and Linabo in 1894. 50 The pacification campaign of the Spaniards in Bukidnon meet a sporadic instance of resistance. Based on the accounts of the Jesuit records Bukidnons resisted the settlement in the small Jesuit hamlets. The Natives who lived on the mountain side resisted the Jesuits who forced them onto the plains. Despite this resistance from the native, Jesuits missionary introduced new agricultural practices, new crops, and farming techniques, which were later expanded upon by the American colonizers. Their missions in Bukidnon provided a degree of cultural exchange between the Spaniards and native people. Trade with the coastal Bisayan of Cagayan grew as the Bukidnon's were taught how to grow coffee, cocoa, corn, and hemp. The efforts to establish self-supporting communities were taken advantage of, and the Bukidnon's suffered exploitation at the hands of the businessmen of Misamis. Before Jesuits began documenting their culture in the late nineteenth century, the Bukidnon people had already started supplementing their corn-based diet with rice. They also began cultivating abaca as a cash crop, enhancing trade with the Maguindanao's to the south and the Bisayans to the north. In 1889, the widespread interest was abaca, which became their principal export due to the high price of fiber in the world market. Later, the trading relationship in Bukidnon transitioned into a "hemp trust" where the coastal Misamis and Surigao traders exploited the Bukidnon's.

The Recollects were among the early groups of missionaries who made significant missionary works in Mindanao. In 1622, Francisco de la Madre de Dios and Juan de San Nicolas continued their missions of establishing churches and conversion of the natives into Christianity. They reached Butuan until Himologan, a settlement of Bukidnon. The converts were congregated in the settlements called rancherias de *Monteses* that emerged in the Bukidnon plateau by the year 1860s. This settlement served as a point of interaction of the natives and the colonizers to integrate Christianization and colonial dominance. When the Jesuits took over the Christianization in Bukidnon in 1870s they made a profound change not just in the religious ways of the natives but also, in the socio-economic structure of the province. The Jesuits facilitated improved communication and exploration in the region. The development of routes through the Pulangi area and the Rio Grande de Mindanao that linked Cotabato with the rest of northern Mindanao. This trail was crucial

for commercial activities and spurred the Bukidnon to enhance their agricultural production by introducing innovative ways of cultivating crops.

### **Pre-Colonial System of Landownership**

The system of Land ownership in the Philippines before the colonization was characterized by traditional system of communal practices. Back then, Filipinos used these practices for land management rather than property rights. The traditional leaders, the *Datus*, held significant authority over land management and distribution to ensure it was used among community members. The pre-colonial land ownership was, thus, deeply rooted in cultural and spiritual beliefs. Certain lands that were held sacred were managed with great reverence. Land was owned by the *barangay* (village), and the individuals had the right to use land for production. Lands were allocated for purposes such as farming the land and cultivation or other forms of sustainable land management.

In Bukidnon, land ownership was not a concept for the natives; lands were shared and used in tribal traditions. According to Father Jose Maria Clotet, the land used by the natives to cultivate crops must be considered sacred and deeply connected to their ancestors and spirits. The traditional methods of land use include careful management to ensure sustainable farming. The people honored the lands through rituals aimed at bountiful harvests, reflecting a profound respect for their environment and its spiritual significance. Bukidnon's planted corn, camote, and other food crops in small swidden plots for the purpose of food sustenance. They did not own the land. Instead, they had only usufructuary rights granted by their *datu*.

Nonetheless, the introduction of colonization in the country brought significant changes in the system of land ownership. Bukidnon, as an agricultural-based economy, adopted the framework of colonial administration. When the Spaniards arrived, they introduced the concept of private property that eventually led to a policy of registration of land titles. This new landscape of land ownership in Bukidnon was further solidified when the Americans arrived, implementing the Torrens system that aimed to formalize land ownership through land registration and property rights. Due to the changes in how land was used and viewed by individuals, this change in land ownership upends the conventional methods of land management. The "*Repertimiento*" system, which the Spanish government instituted, gave settlers land that could be purchased, sold, or inherited. Due to the commercialization of individual settlers, it ceased to be a community form and had an impact on the native population.

The Spanish period in the Philippines initiated the introduction of land titling, but it was the Americans in the 20th century who formalized the implementation of Torrens system

of land registration. The Torrens system, provided a legal framework for the individual property ownership. Under this system the government will issue a land title to provide security for land ownership. It was primarily initiated by enacting the Land Registration Act of 1902, or known as Act no. 496.

In Bukidnon, the large expanses of land property, particularly the agricultural land, could now be owned by certain individuals or corporations. The introduction of this system by the Americans essentially privatized the lands in Bukidnon. In the native populations these changes had long term effects in the displacement of their ancestral land. Additionally, this shift laid to serious land problem. As large corporations and agricultural estates and plantations resulted in the expropriation of lands from the native populations in favor for these large landowners who are not even locals in the province. This system created a rift between the native people and their ancestral lands. The legal frameworks implemented by the colonizers on the system of private property had lasting repercussions, specifically in the context of displacement among the native communities which is also disconnected the communities from their cultural practices for land management. Thus, new policies of Indigenous Peoples' Right Act (IPRA), passed in 1997 provide a significant step for protecting land rights of the native communities including those in Bukidnon.

### **Traditional Agricultural Practices of the Bukidnons**

Agricultural practices reveal that the natives are deeply connected to their rich cultural heritage. The natives had already framed sustainable farming techniques rooted in their beliefs and practices before colonization. These practices are not only based on farming or cultivation methods but are also woven into Bukidnon's spiritual, social, and cultural fabric. The natives of Bukidnon performed beliefs and rituals as a guide for their agricultural activities. They even name the stars and watch the sky to know precisely when to plant. They reference a particular star as a pattern for their agricultural calendar; for instance, the indications of the rainy season and the appearance of specific star act as signals of farming activities like burning trees and preparing the ground for sowing.



*Figure 1 The Slash-and- Burn Method*

The slash-and-burn method, known as the *kaingin*, is a traditional practice of the natives in Bukidnon. A method of clearing the forested land by cutting or burning the vegetation and preparing the soil for planting crops. The land they cleared is made suitable for one year of dry land, and these various crops included rice, abaca (hemp), and tobacco. They also planted camote, gabi, and a few banana trees. This agricultural clearing method can be continued for two or three years.

The *kaingin* system was accompanied by rituals and ceremonies by the *bylan* (spiritual leader) to seek blessings for a bountiful harvest. Before the natives began their planting, they performed a ritual to the spirit who lives in the field, “Ibabaso,” and the God of the field name, *Tagumbanwa*, where the natives made the *Kaliga* ceremony intended for him. The *bylan* communicated with the realm of the spirit and offered a prayer of rituals addressed to the superior spirit and then to *Ibabaso*. Afterwards, planting can now be undertaken. Farming or *ibabasuk* also calls on the help of the *talagbugta* to make the planted crops healthy. Farming through this *kaingin* method was one of the significant sources of livelihood among the natives of Bukidnon. Other ethnic groups in the province adopted these practices in agriculture before the arrival of the Spaniards. Those who settled along the hinterlands survived mainly through farming, hunting, and food gathering. During the harvesting period, men and women started singing about their ancestors' history and their heroes' prowess. In harvesting the crops, the farmer performed a ritual of sharing called *lagti* or *lagon* a kind of thanksgiving celebration where the farmer and *bylan* shares,

the produce crops with the community and the spirits. This is a part of the cultural practices of *kabagsukan* or agriculture. They also prepare seven chickens, serving seven in different spirits. They performed this in honor of their spiritual beliefs and for cultivating the land; Father Clotet said that the natives used the plow and a small hole with a short-curved handle. In planting, like rice, the natives carry a long stick sharpened at one end, punching holes into the ground while others follow by dropping the rice seeds into the holes and then pushing the earth with their feet. They also prepare white, black, and red cloths, assorted coins, biscuits, candies, drinks, and other items, and the farmers will then go to the corn field. The farmers will select seven hills of corn and put them outside the cornfield, and these uprooted plans will be given to the *agka-ayat* or the envious spirit so that they will not harm any crops planted. The Bukidnon's crop includes cassava, kamais(corn), potato gabi and arurut. They regularly plant these crops throughout all seasons, particularly in Mount Kitanglad, part of which is their ancestral domain. Corn remained a staple food of the natives. The native people of Bukidnon also eat edible grasses like paku and hagma.

### **Traditional Farming Tools**

The natives use traditional farming tools in farming to produce a sustainable practice in agriculture. Before the American occupation, the traditional method of indigenous knowledge and communal efforts of agricultural activities enhanced Bukidnon's crop growth and production. These farming tools used by the natives in Bukidnon, were designed to perform their traditional farming methods minimizing environmental harm. The *salsalan* (blacksmithing) is crucial in equipping the tribe with tools essential for their agricultural activities. The *bolos*, utilized for tasks such as weeding and planting, are crafted here. The blacksmith shop is regarded as sacred due to the presence of guardian spirits, who offer assistance but may also inflict illness as punishment for transgressions. These spirits, viewed as the tribe's kin, inhabit the forests and mountains, with one of them being responsible for the "lamp of life" for each individual. The tribe adheres strictly to the omens and traditions associated with *salsalate* to avoid violating established customs. The natives also utilized tools to facilitate various agricultural activities, from preparing the soil and planting to irrigation and harvesting. One of the devices is the rice knife. This device is used to harvest planted rice in the field. As described by Cole (1956)

*The blade is fixed to a cylinder positioned between the third and fourth fingers, allowing these fingers to grasp the stalk. The thumb presses the stalk against the metal. Once enough rice is cut, it is placed next to the kalotan.*





Fig. 44. Rice knife.

*Figure 2 Rice Knife*

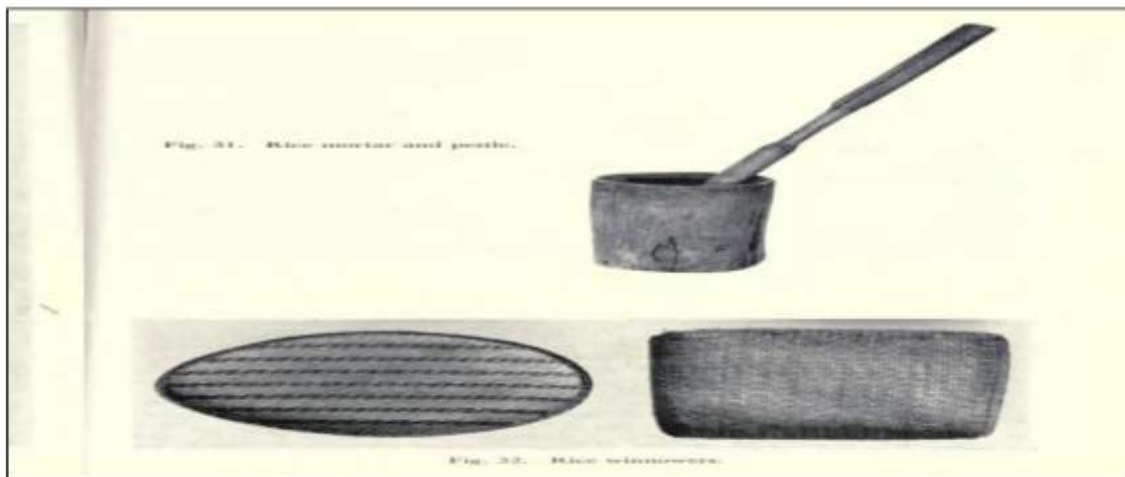


*Figure 3 Illustrating the use of Grinding Stone*

This stone grinder comprises two discs (*cilindros*) of very hard stone. The lower part is securely placed on a wooden stand, while the upper part is movable and has a central hole for pouring corn. The grinding motion is achieved by rotating a handle attached to the side of the movable disc. This device was commonly used for grinding various types of food grains, including corn. As described by Cole

*The blade is fixed to a cylinder positioned between the third and fourth fingers, allowing these fingers to grasp the stalk. The thumb presses the stalk against the metal. Once enough rice is cut, it is placed next to the kalotan.*

*Wooden mortar pestle* is used for peeling off grains before cooking like, *dawa aglay* and coffee beans. This was still seen in Bukidnon houses today. When making food, these tools are also used to prepare *nigo*, *ambong*, or *bukag*, and *ikam*. *Bolo* was essential for clearing land and planting. This tool allows the native farmers to efficiently cut through the dense vegetation and use to prepare land for cultivation. It usually used for chopping down of weeds. Like the shade of the abaca plantations. These tools are essential in traditional rice farming and post-harvest practices. The rice mortar and pestle are made from a hallowed log. Grinding rice and other grains is its main purpose. The rice is placed in the mortar and crushed with a wooden pestle to loosen the husks. The rice is then moved to a rice winnower and thrown into the air. The wind separates the trash from the heavier grains, allowing the latter to fall back onto the winnower.



*Figure 4 Rice Mortar and Pestle and Rice Winnower*

These traditional farming tools are essential in Bukidnon agricultural activities as they provide the natives the necessary use for clearing the land, cultivating, harvesting, and planting various crops. These tools are efficient for production and sustainable farming in Bukidnon. In many facets of agriculture, these traditional farming tools have several uses. It shows historical and cultural importance, reflecting their innovations and preserving traditional farming practices.

### **Agricultural Ceremonies and Rituals**

Agricultural practices among the natives were integral to their way of life. Planting rice and other basic crops is intertwined with rituals and rites. These rituals differ depending on the culture and religion. In Bukidnon, farming ceremonies and rituals included the natives asking for spiritual consent. All spirits significant to farming would be asked prayer rituals for a successful harvest. Many acts and ceremonial activities were performed by the natives in connection with agriculture. One of the ceremonies performed by the natives is the *Salangsang Ceremony*, were the people of Bukidnon performed to ask permission from *Magbabaya* to plant crops. Villages like Limabayo, which is close to Manobo, hold a two-day ceremony for ritual spirits before the planting. They erected a little altar to keep pigs, chickens, and liquor. On the first night of the ceremonies, the people will drink and sing, and the following day, they will slaughter and offer the animals.

The farmers perform the following customary rituals and practices. In agriculture, traditional farming follows ceremonial practices by asking consent of all spirits who have significance to agriculture for a successful harvest. In these practices, the natives believe that to have a bountiful harvest it is necessary to ask favor and cooperation from the spiritual forces. The following rituals include the *Panalabugta* ( a ritual for the spirit guardian of the land or soil); *Pangingibasuk* (ritual for the spirit guardian of plants); *Talutambo hu Salangsang* ( ritual for the spirit guardian of food); *Kagsad-ang* (ritual for the spirit of the place where preserved corn is hanged) ; *Kagbungkad* (ritual asking permission to get food from the container or bugawan); *Kagbahin hu mangangalawat* (sharing food to others who are needy); in addition the traditional farming ensures to follow the heavenly bodies and sign from the natural world and perform rituals. Traditional farming of the natives does not cut down water-bearing trees when clearing an area for cultivation. This approach ensures that the water table remains stable and prevents the erosion of riverbanks. During dry periods, the farmer cuts down the trunks of these trees to irrigate crops.

### **Colonial Bukidnon: The Advent of American Colonization**

The American presence in the Philippines was multifaceted after the Spanish-American War in 1898; the Treaty of Paris marked the end of more than three centuries of Spanish rule. The American occupation of the archipelago, including Mindanao and Bukidnon, was firmly established after the Philippine-American War (1899- 1902). The transfer of colonial authority in the Philippines from the hands of the Spaniards to American rule became the starting point for significant socio-political, economic, and cultural changes in the nation.

The "Benevolent Assimilation" policy of the Americans extended its influence in Southeast Asia, which made the Philippines a target of interest because of strategic assets that would materialize the imperial ambitions of the Americans. The Filipino people were excited with this policy of American rule because they believed it would bring modernization, education, and economic development. For Filipinos, Americans can be an ally in their quest for independence. When the Americans implemented their ideal of development and modernization in the country they faced the conflict of culture, traditions and social changes but still were able to dominate. The founding of the Philippine Commission in land surveying and delineation procedures. Economic motives drove the separation of the Bukidnon province under the Misamis government. In an official government report passed to the Philippine Commission in 1908, the Secretary of the Interior for the American colonial government, Dean Worcester, Frederick Lewis, and Lieutenant Manuel Fortich Sr. of the Philippine Constabulary visited the Bukidnon in 1907. They discovered that the lowland traders exploited the local Bukidnon people by engaging in dishonest practices and imposing excessively high interest rates. The Americans discovered that these traders were operating on behalf of politicians from Cagayan de Misamis in the lowlands. They purchased abaca from the locals at unreasonably low prices, using coercion and threats, including the use of firearms and accusations of sedition, to enforce compliance. Landlords from Cagayan de Misamis, who resided outside the region, compelled their Bukidnon tenants to sell abaca and other cash crops under duress. American officials were rightly concerned about the fact that the highlanders were probably the most abused and maltreated by these lowland traders. The American delegation recommended that the colonial authorities take decisive action to establish a more active presence in Bukidnon to remedy the situation and ease the burden on the local population. American officials have decided to make Bukidnon a sub-province of Agusan, for they have claimed that their direct governance will help alleviate the situation in the province.

In 1907, the Americans formally established control over Bukidnon in response to reports of alleged corruption involving Misamis officials and Chinese traders, undermining Bukidnon's economy. With the creation of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu on

September 1, 1914, Bukidnon was recognized as a regular province. Subsequently, on March 10, 1917, it became a separate province under Act 2711, officially named the Province of Bukidnon. The American entry into Bukidnon faced strong resistance from the local inhabitants, including the remaining Moros and Lumads, who were determined to defend their territories against the advancing American forces. Natives wage revolts during the early years of American colonization. For instances, In April of 1910 100 families of the natives in Bukidnon went to Mt. Kitanglad to perform spiritual rituals.

The same situation in the areas of the nearby town of Impasug-ong. Frederick Lewis saw this action as a form of resistance as many Bukidnons retreated into the mountains and joined as bandits or *magahats* (blood avengers) as referred by Frederick Lewis to the unruly lawlessness of the Bukidnon's. According to the account of Edgerton this is not a movement but an individualized form of revenge in a circumstance such as ambush in response to the presence of the *dumagat* settlers. Ultimately, the Americans developed strategies to alleviate the local population and gain access to Central Mindanao without further opposition. A key component of their approach was the use of education as a means to exert control over the locals. The occupation of the Americans also introduced soil andland surveys to the areas suitable for agriculture in the Philippines. Bukidnon was one of the targets for establishing the agricultural colony of the Americans due to its geographic setting and the type B climate, which does not have a dry season and has constant rainfall conducive to planting. This makes Bukidnon an ideal setting for various agricultural activities, including crop cultivation and plantation management.

Another method of pacification employed by the Americans was the establishment of collective farms in Bukidnon. The introduction of farm settlements and agricultural colonies were designed to draw locals into working on lands and ranches created by the colonizers. These agricultural settlements effectively contained the local population attracted by employment opportunities and wages. One of the most notable is the Del Monte farm in Manolo Fortich, one of the oldest American-established agricultural operations still working today. However, the farms and agricultural colonies were dangerous to the Lumad tribes, as they were displacing natives from their ancestral lands. The Americans used legal loopholes to maneuver the native tribes into relinquishing their lands through a deceptive agreement, forcing them to move to the mountains. At the same time, fertile lands of Bukidnon were of benefit to the agricultural enterprises.

Building infrastructures is another form for Americans to subjugate the province. The construction of different infrastructures in Mindanao was part of the larger policies of the attraction by the Americans. The construction of road building was aimed at the locals and native tribes, particularly those hostiles to the invaders. This was materialized to attract the influence and control of the Americans. The Americans' entry into the province introduced



various programs and projects to develop local agriculture and promote economic growth. During the American period, the province of Bukidnon became a site for agricultural experiments. The American authorities manage the production shift from subsistence to economic large-scale agricultural production. The Governor General from 1929-1935 Dwight F. Davis also visited Bukidnon and offer assistance for the completion of the Syre Highway that will open vast agricultural colonies.

The Americans initiated a vigorous campaign to the province of Bukidnon to compete economically with the lowlanders. Lieutenant Governor Frederick Lewis and the local *mestizo* landowner Manuel Fortich succeeded in effecting the resettlement on the plateau between 1907 and 1914. This pacification campaign of the Americans in Bukidnon to the native people, was done in a gradual process of integration into a colonial framework, this also include through coercive means.

### **The Impact of American Agricultural Policies in Bukidnon's Agricultural Landscape.**

By 1907, Bukidnon became an area of direct control under the American administration. The Bukidnon political, economic, and social developments remained under the American influence. American economic policies were enacted for the Philippines and, of course, Bukidnon. Several agricultural policies have been promulgated by the colonial government to Bukidnon's economy. There is new crop planting and adjustment of the modern techniques of farming in Bukidnon as inspired by the Americans. Various crops, stressing cash crops and commercial agriculture, linked Bukidnon to a wider economic trend.

Bukidnon experienced the influence of varied agricultural policies instituted by the Americans in the Philippines. The American government passed The Forest Act, Act No. 1148, managing public forests and forest reserves in the Philippine Islands. This law was enforced and was enacted on May 7, 1904, to encourage the development of crops not based on "kaingin farming." Section 25 of this act provides

*The cutting, clearing, or destroying of the public forests or forest reserves, or any part thereof, for the purpose of making kaingins, without lawful authority is hereby prohibited, and whoever, in violation of this provision, shall cut, clear, or destroy the same, for such purpose, or shall willfully or negligently set fire thereto, shall, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction, be punished by a fine not exceeding a sum equivalent to twice the regular government charge upon the timber so cut, cleared, or destroyed, and, in addition thereto, by*

*imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, in the discretion of the court.*

The Forest Act (Act No. 1148) enacted in 1904 had significantly impacted Bukidnon's Agricultural Landscape. This regulation limits the areas for traditional shifting cultivation that affected the traditional farming practices of Bukidnon. This tainted the natives to adapt American land cultivation practices and compelled them to adopt the new farming methods and encourage commercial cash crop cultivation. This shift also changes the soil structure, fertility and agricultural sustainability. This policy restricted the natives on shifting cultivation and adopt the new farming practices for agriculture. The valuable forest products was developed like rubber, camphor, quinine that comprises and area of 378 hectares in barrio of Impalutao, and Impasug-ong Bukidnon was appropriated. The other area in Alanib area that occupy 1000 hectares for quinine reservation. The chinchona occupied already 15 hectares, the only chinchona plantations in the Philippines.

The Land Registration Act of 1902 or known as Act No. 496 provides for the adjudication and registration of titles of lands in the Philippines. This policy provided a legal framework for land ownership, and this promoted the process of ensuring that land claims were recognized and legally protected. This policy was substantial in the province of Bukidnon as a region with rich agricultural potential and direct land ownership issues. This policy had certain challenges and adaptations in the area as the natives of Bukidnon practiced traditional land management practices, and its transition was complex and contested. In Bukidnon, the natives such as Manobo, Talaandig and Higaonon had practiced communal ownership for land management. However this implementation defined the terms of individual title of land, which did not fit to the native practices which lead to the displacement of land for the natives that posed significant challenges. However, despite this transformative system, the Land Registration Act promoted agricultural development, and economic changes boosted Bukidnon's agricultural productivity as it introduce commercial farming.

Another form of policies introduced by the Americans is the Public Land Act No. 926, enacted October 7, 1903, in the Philippines during American colonization. Its primary purpose is to allocate public land distribution. The act introduced the homestead system and included provisions for the judicial and administrative validation of incomplete land titles and the sale or lease of public lands.

*Under the Act, open, continuous, exclusive and notorious possession and occupation of agricultural lands for the next ten (10) years preceding July 26, 1904 was sufficient for judicial confirmation of imperfect title.*

This policy highlights that homesteads of 16 hectares given to each individual and 1,024 hectares for each corporation on the unoccupied or unappropriated agricultural public lands were made available. Homesteading primary objective is to open up public lands for agricultural purposes to those individual who are qualified for agricultural production.

The Public Land Acts in 1903 and Acts 2225 and 2280 allows the creation of agricultural colonies, homestead and the resettlement areas. These agricultural colonies, was mostly for rice cultivation in areas of Southern Mindanao, where President Quezon initiated the migration in Mindanao which was place of great opportunity that encourage the migration from the settlers of Luzon to Visayas particularly in Bukidnon as Quezon saw Mindanao as a “ Land of Promise” a place that needed to be developed.

In Bukidnon, the policy of homestead encouraged the migrants of Luzon and Visayas to inhabit lands for agricultural purposes. This facilitated the entry of the different investors, allowing them to lease land in the province. In 1926, the Philippine Packing Corporation (Del Monte) established pineapple plantations in Bukidnon.

The influx of migrants from various provinces in the Philippines exacerbated challenges for the natives of Bukidnon. As this region attracted more people seeking improved economic opportunities, competition for land escalated, leading to disputes over land ownership and access to resources. Many native communities faced marginalization and were displaced to the periphery of society as migrant settlers encroached upon their ancestral lands. The Americans saw the influx of these migrants as an advantage for their colonization by maximizing the economic potential in the Philippines, particularly in Bukidnon. In 1910 , the American government encouraged land migration from Luzon and Visayas. Del Monte plantations attracted migrants to the agricultural colonies in Mindanao. The majority of the workers in the years 1920 and 1930 came from Bohol. The natives responded to the settler's arrival as a positive development as they learned the new sedentary forms of agriculture. Natives slowly began associating with the migrants by working on the plantations. The American agricultural policies implemented in Bukidnon during the colonial era led to significant changes across Bukidnon's social and economic aspects. Although these policies contributed to the economic development and modernization of a country, it also pushed native communities off their land and undermined the rights to ancestral lands. The after-effects of such policies continue to be prevalent in Bukidnon's socio-economic landscape today.



*Figure 5 Establishment of Settlement Farm Schools*

In line with establishing agricultural policies in Bukidnon, the Americans consider forming agricultural schools. This initiative by the Americans contribute to the development of agricultural production, and through education, the natives learn how to use modern farming techniques and practices. Like, using the modern equipment of disk-plows and animals. Under Act No. 74, passed on January 21, 1901, the establishment of public instruction oversee the creation of a public school system throughout the Philippines. Education is one of the pacification campaigns of the Americans that ultimately shaped the region's agricultural landscape.

When the Americans arrived in Bukidnon, they saw the province's potential as an ideal setting for various agricultural activities, including crop cultivation and plantation management. Bukidnon's climate suits planting because of its sustained plant growth, providing stable moisture and ensuring a continuous water supply. The environment of Bukidnon does not have a dry season and has constant rainfall, which belongs to the intermediate type B climate. During this period, Dean Worcester, the secretary of the Interior, said that Bukidnon's potential lies in becoming a food basket contributing to regional and national food security. However, the Americans need to exert concerted efforts to shape the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon.

The American government initiated the move to introduce a settlement farm school in the province to ensure the development of Bukidnon's economic facets by integrating education into the people. Before the advent of colonization, the land was not owned by individuals. Instead, it was communal ownership, but when the colonizers arrived, especially the Americans, the government saw the need to restrict land size so that private individuals or corporations could develop. Dean Worcester saw this way for the Americans

to support and contribute to the economic growth of Bukidnon by improving the agricultural sector.

In 1908, education was introduced in the settlement areas of Bukidnon. In order to draw the Bukidnon's to the settlement zones created by the American government were they could easily manage the populace under their colonial rule, the government set up settlement agricultural schools. The establishment of the farm schools ensured Bukidnon's agricultural progress and assisted the students in producing more food crops. The inhabitants of Bukidnon need this in order to avoid becoming dependent on the food that the people of Misamis trade.

The farm schools emphasize the practical instructions in farming to help the students learn new methods for agriculture. The Mailag Agricultural School was among the earliest schools that taught the students agriculture techniques, like plowing tools. The Americans introduced these new ways of farming for production in the province and to ensure self-sufficient communities. Slowly, this implementation of the farm schools by the Americans developed Bukidnon into an agricultural economy and abandoned their traditional practice of the *kaingin* system



Table 1. The Different Farm Settlement in Bukidnon 1915

Divisions.	Name of school and location.	Number of teachers.		Pupils enrolled.			Number of hectares.	Hectares under cultivation.	Number of animals.	Value of products.
		American.	Filipino.	Male.	Female.	Total.				
Agusan	Tanculan settlement, Bukidnon	1		28	17	45	3.3	1.1		106.00
Do.	Dalirig settlement, Bukidnon	1		22	10	32	2.2	.75		60.00
Do.	Impalulao settlement, Bukidnon	1		32	13	45	2.4	1.3		65.00
Do.	Impasugong settlement, Bukidnon	2		80	30	110	3.6	2.1		43.00
Do.	Kalusungay settlement, Bukidnon	2		70	30	100	3.4	2		130.00
Do.	Linabe settlement, Bukidnon	1		55	25	80	2.5	1.5		90.00
Do.	Mailag settlement, Bukidnon*	1		26	4	30	1.7	.7		5.00
Do.	Malaybalay settlement, Bukidnon	3		140	40	180	2.3	1.1		325.20
Do.	Maluco settlement, Bukidnon	2		72	38	110	3.1	1.5		21.65
Do.	Mambuaya settlement, Bukidnon	1		45	20	65	3	1.		64.00
Do.	Puntian settlement, Bukidnon	1		50	10	60	2.8	1.		55.00
Do.	Sumilao settlement, Bukidnon	2		60	20	80	2.1	1.		60.00
Do.	Valencia settlement, Bukidnon	1		25	5	30	1.1	.5		5.00
Do.	Bugcaon settlement, Bukidnon	1		60	10	70	2.7	.8		59.00
Do.	Alanib settlement, Bukidnon	1		35	5	40	2.4	1.2		125.00
Do.	Talacag settlement, Bukidnon	1		53	20	73	3	1.		64.00
Zambales	Villar settlement, Zambales	2		17	23	40	20	4.	10	600.00
Total			24	870	320	1,190	61.6	22.55	10	1,877.85

In September 1915, the Americans successfully established settlement schools in different areas of Bukidnon which includes the areas of Tanculan, Darilig, Impalutao, Impasugong, Kalusangay, Linabe, Mailag, Malybalay, Maluco, Mambuaya, Puntian, Sumilao, Valencia, Bugcaon, Alanib, and Talacag. These settlements in Bukidnon facilitated the pacification campaign of the Americans to incorporate the province of Bukidnon into a larger framework of colonial rule. The process of establishing settlement farm school is an effort of the Americans to increase agricultural productivity.

The settlement farm schools offered better farming practices that improved self-sufficiency in food and served as a medium for agricultural production. The Americans imposed several orders and practical instructions on the Bukidnon's, according to the annual report of 1920, Bukidnon settlement farm schools were equipped with farmlands of various sizes, ranging from four to sixteen hectares. This land was used for the school's experimental farms by the young boys of Bukidnon as they were taught about practical agriculture. In 1939, a significant increase was evident in the province in producing food crops, particularly corn, with a total land area of 21,738.09 hectares. The expansion of the areas for the cultivation of corn offered more production, which increased from 16,881 caravans in 1918 to 80,432 caravans in 1928. The settlements in Malaybalay and northern Bukidnon were the center of corn producing areas of the province.

The American government greatly increased rice and corn production during the colonial period. This increase resulted from the Bukidnon farmers' positive response to new agricultural practices and the influence of settlement farm schools. One of the practical instructions implemented in the settlement farm schools is using new farming tools and methods. They introduced the usage of animals, especially cattle, plows, mattocks, and bullocks. As the people of Bukidnon utilized the new agricultural activities, this contributed to the changes in the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. This ultimately shapes the region's farming and economic growth.

The American authorities also initiated the practical instruction of using animals in farming and instructed them to plant and cultivate farm schools. The Secretary of Interior, Dean Worcester, ordered the experimentation held in Tankulan, Bukidnon, to extend their work from their agricultural settlement to cultivate prairie lands (a plain of grassy land without many trees). Dean Worcester's states that:

*They grow camotes, upland rice, corn, bananas, beans, pineapples, eggplants, arrowroot and some cases, cacao and coffee. They also interested of the introduction of American sweet potatoes in place of less nutritious camotes, in selection of sweet corn in the generalization of better varieties of bananas.*

The practical instructions given to the students of the settlement farm school offered self-sufficient production as they could make their food, which was vital to accomplish the economic advancement of their tribe. Aside from the practical instruction of using animals

in farming, The Americans also instructed cultivating foreign crops in every settlement farm school. These include okra, cabbages, tomatoes, lettuce, and lima beans.



*Figure 6 Illustration for Practical Instruction*

The establishment of farm schools in the province plays a significant role in improving farming techniques, crop management, and livestock handling. The initiative of the Americans to provide skills and knowledge to the people of Bukidnon is instrumental in encouraging permanent settlement. According to the Bureau of Education, the grassy land was more effectively cultivated than the mountain sides can be by the “*kaingin system*.” The new techniques introduced by the Americans, including using a wooden, iron-tipped plow introduced around 1910-1914 in the province, provided beautiful fields of corn surrounding the settlements and increased plantings of rice and camotes. On the other hand, these new farming techniques vastly replace the old *kaingin system* with the productive methods of lowland cultivation. The considerable focus of this settlement farm school has also been instructing the cultivation of various crops, including camotes, cowpeas, and peanuts. Camote is needed for rice planting, and camote ahoy is for coffee plants. The areas

of the fields planted at this school during the five months ending October 31, 1913, and its harvest season shows the farm produced 113 pesos per hectare cultivated just only in the span of five months. This shows the increase in the production of various crops in the province. In the year 1913-1939 the increase production of cavans of corn in Bukidnon showcase the effectiveness of the farm school to augment the increase of agricultural productivity of the province. These two products are very necessary for the sustenance of the inhabitants. The settlement of farm schools, education, and the new and improved farming techniques and policies increased the productivity of these crops in the province. The corn produced in Bukidnon increased from 16,881 cavans in 1918 to 80,432 cavans in 1928 the total of 145, 894 cavans in 1939.

### **A Shift to Commercial Farming and the Introduction Of Cash Crop Agriculture**

The arrival of the Americans in Bukidnon ushered a pivotal changes in the farming practices and land used pattern in the province , from a traditional practices and subsistence crops that are quite entrenched in their local culture, to the introduction of commercial farming and cash crop agriculture. The start of cash crop agriculture in the province facilitated the changes of land use and farming techniques that offered a wide-reaching economic and social impact, such as increased crop production, development of irrigation systems, and major plantations. The American colonial administration and their economic objectives drove the demand for commercial agriculture in Bukidnon.

The Americans identified Bukidnon's agriculture as a potential place suitable for the large production of food for export. Introducing new agricultural techniques and practices impacted the population increase in the province. The Americans introduced key crops such as rubber, corn, and sugarcane as part of the initiative of the colonial authorities to integrate Bukidnon into the global markets, as agricultural lands in the province of Bukidnon were economically and socially important to the people.

Bukidnon shifted from traditional subsistence to a commercial agricultural system. The American colonial system implemented various colonial policies, particularly in Agriculture, to cater the needs of the people in the province. The secretary of Interior Dean Worcester states that;

*“What we want is not the indefinite preservation of our present vast tackiness wastes of the richest agricultural land, but productive farms.*

The Americans encourage the agricultural lands to commercial agriculture that allows the entry of the Del Monte and other agribusinesses. The province of Bukidnon was the major producer of crops such as corn, sugar, rice, coffee, rubber, pineapple, tomato, cassava, and other fruits and vegetables. The province occupied the biggest agricultural areas, the fertile soils, and cool climate that were highly suited for agricultural production.

### **New Farming Tools by the Americans**

The Americans introduced wooden, iron tipped plough in 1909 to demonstrate to the natives that it was vital in cultivating rolling grassy land than doing the slash-burn system (*kaingin*). The American colonial rule initiated the agricultural technology like motor-drawn machinery that transform traditional farming practices through mechanization. This mechanical farming started at pineapple plantations by purchasing US tractors and tracks.

The mechanical stripper machines that removed seeds from crops like cotton, corn, and soybeans were used in farming. Disc plows were also used to turn the soil and cut up weeds more useful for soil that is particularly sticky and rocky, and harrows were used for soil preparation before planting. Seeder and Planters these machines helped sow seeds at the correct depth and spacing, which is crucial for crop development. The Americans also introduced drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, and water pumps to help ensure crops for adequate water, given Bukidnon's varied rainfall patterns.

The colonial government also introduced new tools for irrigation, fertilizers, pests, and disease control. These tools provide a sustainable farming process to manage crop plantations and production. As to the natives these new farming tools introduced by the Americans facilitated the increased production of new crops, improving the crop quality and yields and increasing the efficiency and sustainability of agricultural production in Bukidnon.

### **Introduction of New Crops for Agriculture**

The Bukidnon province was considered the most desirable commercial agricultural area, suited for its topography, sufficient elevation, climate, rainfall, and adaptable crops. As a result, they introduced a range of new varieties of crops, including citrus fruits, chinchona, soybeans, sugar cane, cashew nuts, pili nuts, rubber, tobacco and pineapple. The successful raising of palay, millet, cacao, aglay, cotton, sesame, maguey, and cotton. The tobacco can be raised in the areas of Mt. Kitanglad in the vicinity town of Impasugong. In the mountain areas the natives like the Manobos raised good crops of palay, maize and plenty of camotes. The cabbage, egg-plant, peas, turnips, radishes are raised and also melons and

squash and cucumbers improved varieties of these production. The experiment with these seeds during the American period resulted in a healthy plants and good quality of crops.

This province was also a major producer of commercial vegetables grown on the slopes of Mt. Kitanglad and Mt. Kalatungan in Lantapan Talakag and Impasugong. This included the tomato, carrot, and cabbage, which represented 77. 86 and 83%, respectively, of the total regional production.

The following are the major crops introduced during the colonial period and these crops became staples of Bukidnon's agricultural economy, transforming the province into one of the country's major agricultural hubs.

*Citrus Fruits-* It was considered the commercial scale, evident at Sumilao, Northern Bukidnon. A short distance from the Del Monte plantation. This crop is said to develop in areas about 1,000 ft. elevation.

*Chinchona-* It can be grow with an elevation of 4,000 ft. and above, especially on variable soil. The commonwealth period Impalutao near the city of Malaybaly Bukidnon. In addition, a plantation at Kaatoan near the slopes of Kitanglad where cinchona are grown extensively. Two pieces of Chinchona are being grown, the Cinchona succuba and Chinchona ledegriana. The plantation of Chinchona trees had already occupied fifteen hectares. This plantation comprises an area of 378 hectares in barrio Impalutao and Impasugong Bukidnon. Governor General Theodore Roosevelt finds his visit in the province as interesting as he noticed that the province is an important experimental place for agricultural colonies. Having a favorable platue, climate and lands for agriculture.

*Soy Beans* –this crop was grown in Bukidnon several years ago. Many soybeans adopt to different soil, climate, and seasonal conditions and will produce profitably in Mindanao. Certain varieties of this crop successfully grow in Siam and South China. The Bureaus of Plant and Industry introduce how to cultivate this crop successfully depends on the inoculation of the soil with proper bacteria. The same method of painting manages equally good results in Mindanao.

*Sugar Cane-* the American colonial masters introduce sugarcane cultivation that encourage the favorable large-scale sugarcane plantations in the region.

*Rubber-* the rubber cultivation was promoted by the American administration as the province is suitable for rubber plantations. This became a significant part of Bukidnon's agriculture. The Ceara tree was one of the important species in tropical agriculture, especially in rubber plantations. These trees exhibit their most exceptional growth in the



Bukidnon, where they showcase an impressive growth rate and develop dense, almost solid hemispheres of foliage.

The vegetation of Bukidnon provides important clues about the suitability of different crops. Luan trees, for example, indicate fertile loam soil, which is ideal for cultivating abaca, corn, and coffee. Conversely, Olayan (Philippine oak) and (tiger grass) suggest poorer, reddish soil better suited for crops like sweet potatoes requiring fewer nutrients.

Additionally, various trees, shrubs, and plants with economic, ecological, and medicinal value are preserved. Some of these species produce nectar used for honey, a vital livelihood commodity, while others bear fruit that serves as food for wild pigs. These plants' presence helps prevent wild pigs from damaging crops by providing alternative sources of nourishment.

These various crops in the province brought about an economic impact that significantly developed the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. The introduction of new farming practices and improved crops' seed varieties for increased agricultural production. The cultivation of new crops by the Americans encouraged the adaptation of new farming techniques that included the management of the plantations and the processing methods. The need for efficient production of crops led to investments in advanced agricultural tools for cultivating the lands. Many land farms in Bukidnon were transformed into a larger commercial plantation.

### **Bukidnon as an Agricultural Colony**

The other form of American pacification in the province was the introduction of collective farm settlement and the agricultural colonies. These colonies, which played a significant role in the American's control of large tracts of land, were a clear demonstration of the power dynamics at play in the process of assimilation of the native populations, particularly in Bukidnon.

The arrival of the Americans with each implementation of the Agricultural colony's settlement in the Philippines is a key factor for the American colonial domination. The American rule promoted settlement in Mindanao to address land problems and to facilitate cultivation for plantation agriculture. The Americans recognized the enormous economic potential of the island for business interests. The extensive plantation industry is still evident in Mindanao's rural landscape. Gover-General visited Bukidnon in 1911 as he describe the place “ *as an alluring place which he had not seen in the other parts of the Philippines except Bukidnon*”

In Bukidnon, American officials exerted their effort to pacify the non-Christians populations in order for their economic motives to thrive as they saw the province as a potential place for their agribusiness to thrive. This allows the settlers of Bukidnon to engage in agricultural lands for agricultural businesses. Bukidnon produced a more stable food supply when the Americans introduced new farming techniques and cultivation of crops. In Maramag- Kitaotao Plain some portions of the grassland were under lease to influential cattle raisers. The Bureau of Land did the surveying, concentrating on the other portion of land for crop production of land intended for pasture. This move increased the opportunities for agriculture.

### **Cattle Ranching**

When Manuel Fortich became an assemblyman, the most notable law he introduced in the National Assembly was the Commonwealth Act NO. 118, this act allowed for the construction of a livestock breeding facility in Bukidnon. Under Manuel Fortitch's leadership, the lucrative ranching industry pushed the provincial government to start a cattle ranch. The Crescent Star Cattle Company, a government-operated ranch, was established on a 10,000-hectare land near Dagumbaan in Maramag.

The years before the War, the cattle raising emerged as the province greatest source of income rather than agriculture. Bukidnon became the largest supplier of beef to the Manila Market as they moved to Batangas and Masbate. Before 1900 there had been a cattle in the plateau, however it was started to organized until the second decade of American rule. The first two decades of American rule saw the emergence of extensive cattle ranching initiated by the American capitalist and Filipino associates in the agricultural industry. The cattle were not indigenous to the Philippines but were introduced by Chinese traders a few years ago.

In 1903 and 1904 the American Government imported six Jersey bulls and 60 cows and the Hoesiten bull and five cows to create two dairy breeds in the Philippines. From 1905 to 1907, the bred of beef cattle included Angus, Devon, Galloway, and Hereford. By 1909, almost all of these animals had perished, leading the government to conclude that the acclimatization of temperate-zone breeds offered little promise for advancing the cattle industry. In the year 1909, many more importations of cattle, the Nellore breed, which have been designated all over the islands.

The largest concentration of Indian cattle was on the island of Mindanao, particularly in Bukidnon, considered the premier cattle-raising part of the Philippines. The Americans revolutionized cattle ranching in Bukidnon when Secretary of Interior Dean Worcester's opened Bukidnon pastureland for leasehold for interested capitalists. Several Corporations

and Private individuals, the Americans and Filipino associates, engaged in ranching. We have the AMPHILCO (American-Philippine Company) invested in Diklum Ranch at Tankulan (Manolo Fortitch), The Agusan Coconut Company, Worcester's Ranch in Dalwangan, and Anita Thomas Crawford's and Coffee Company in Santa Fe, Libona. Secretary Dean Worcester had another 7,000-hectare ranch in Mailag. Following the government's policy to transition ranching operations to private investors, American interest in the industry declined during the 1920s. By 1921, 20 corporations occupying 100 hectares each were involved in this venture.

### **Pineapple Plantations**

In the 1920s, the American interest in Bukidnon's fertile land was evident as they shifted to large-scale pineapple plantations when Hawaii experienced a reduced supply. In 1928, the growing pineapple in Bukidnon began with the California Packing Corporation (CALPACK) that carried the "Del Monte" brand. The production of the pineapple plantation successfully demonstrated favorable results using the American's introduction of scientific agricultural techniques, which included the exact placement of the plants, the use of fertilizer, the soil preparation, and the use of disease-control sprays. This successful production led to the building of a cannery in Bugo, Cagayan De Oro, which started canning for export.

The Philippine Commission passed the Public Land Act in 1903 and Acts 2254 and 2280 in 1913 the creation of the agricultural colonies, homesteads and resettlement areas. The Philippine Pineapple Corporation (PPC) was initially granted authorization to cultivate pineapple on a 1,024-hectare plot of land in Santa Fe, Libona, in accordance with the Philippine Public Lands Act. On April 22, 1929, were occupied by the Pineapple Corporations. The government facilitated the establishment of this extensive frontier and began efforts to pacify the local native populations, thereby providing the company with prime, fertile land for pineapple cultivation.

The Corporation expanded that involved in the large-scale processing of its produce, with the opening of the cannery as early as 1930. This included the canning of pineapple, processing of coconut, abaca, and sugarcane. Alongside with the Del Monte the Corporation also grew bananas and tomatoes, this plantation industry shape the vast portions of the Mindanao landscape. The Philippine government benefitted with the revenues from this pineapple project but the natives of Bukidnon's did not directly profit with this pineapple plantation as they did not have the opportunity to participate in its development. But these farms and agricultural colonies created conflict with the natives as the Americans used the lands that the natives possessed. These challenges the Americans' implementation of agricultural policies in the province.

When the American colonial government placed limits to the public agricultural lands to 1,024 hectares for corporations, Del Monte executives asked for an exceptions to the land restrictions. Harry White the first President (Del Monte Philippines ) asking for a reconsideration for the land law as it was discouraging investment in the Philippines. The American Governor General Henry Stimson successfully create exceptional land law. This effort lead to appropriations of land sizes for the establishment of an agricultural colony. In 1920 Governor General Eugene Gilmore signed a proclamation 230, allocating 14, 052 hectares of public land in Bukidnon. Thus, the creation of Bukidnon Pineapple Reservation occupied approximately 4,00 hectares. The government ensure the success of this pineapple plantation, In 1910-1930, the American colonial officials encouraged resettlement of populations from Visayas and Luzon to work in large- scale plantations. The American government viewed the increased of migrants as opportunity to aid the American colonization to maximize economic potentials of Bukidnon. The American officials offered assistance to these migrants by giving free transport other financial assistance and a 16 hectares settlements that aid the expansion of agricultural colonies. The natives in Bukidnon began associating to the migrants by working in the plantations or in the migrants owned farmed. In 1920s and 1930s majority of the migrants came from the province of Bohol these people interact with the native. According to Lao, some of the natives in Bukidnon viewed the settlers as integral to the developments of the new sedentary forms of agriculture. The natives, began interacting by the migrants by working in plantations, attending government public schools and converting to Catholicism.

President Manuel Quezon enticed more migrants by anointing Mindanao as “ land of promise” implying vast opportunity to be developed. Unfortunately, 1930 up to 1935, the exports of pineapple in the international market marked a discouraging result because of the world-wide depression which affected the price of the pineapple.

### **The Economic Impact of the Americans Agricultural Colony**

The methods of establishing an agricultural colony in Bukidnon contributed to the economic benefits of the province. This provided opportunities to introduce commercial agriculture and cash crop oriented farming that led to the development of productive agricultural areas, leading to different production of various crops that boosted economic growth and contributed to Bukidnon’s strengthening its position as a key agricultural hub in the country.

The presence of American companies like PPC and the growth of cattle ranching in Bukidnon increased the number of migrants coming to the province as they needed workers for the pineapple industries. Unfortunately, the Bukidnon’s did not directly benefited from the demands of these plantations. The cattle ranching industry in the regions succeeded in

pre-empting the land for pasture rather than private farms. However, it did not significantly enhance socio-economic mobility for the people of Bukidnon. By the early 1920s, when the industry was still in its formative phase, American influence—which had played a crucial role in shaping Bukidnon through education, land use, and economic development—had started to wane.

The time when the American government established its own Cattle Company in the 1930s, Bukidnon became a leading producer in the country. However, this progress was not fairly distributed to the natives in Bukidnon because the Bukidnon people served as laborers with low wages and limited opportunities for economic improvement as they worked with wealthy capitalists from Manila and Cebu, monopolizing the industry.

The arrival of the migrants in Bukidnon faced many challenges as the natives saw these migrants as a competition for land use and resource management. This led the natives to experience marginalization due to the encroachment of migrant settlers. The natives adopted the new agricultural measures implemented by the Americans. However, this adjustment often led to the weakening of their traditional way of life and cultural practices.

Despite the prevailing challenges of land displacement and customary traditions, It was still evident that the introduction of modern farming paved the way for easier plantations of crops in Bukidnon, producing a sufficient amount of corn. In addition, the province was able to produce draft animals and beef cattle for the entire archipelago.

The other effect of establishing an agricultural colony in Bukidnon is land degradation, a result of more extensive land use; or, the extent of use of resources to provide sustainable production to meet the demands of both the local and the international markets. The establishment of agricultural colonies also increased the population of the province from a total of 30, 974 in the period of American dominance in 1907 to 63, 124 in 1935. The impact of this rapid increase in population can be traced back to the arrival of the migrants in the province looking for economic opportunities with the establishment of this agricultural colony in the region. This population increase can have a range of positive and negative effects. In Bukidnon, the displacement of the Manobo tribes as the expansion of Bukidnon Sugar Corporation and the pineapple production lead to a disruption in their traditional land use.

However, this could also offer increased agricultural productivity, and the establishment of farming colonies led to improvements in infrastructure like roads, irrigation systems, and market facilities to cater to the broader community's needs.

The establishment of the agricultural colony in Bukidnon offered significant benefits in terms of socio-economic development. Although these changes contributed to negative impact on the environment, the cultural traditions and the native communities, this effort of American policies to modernize and commercialize farming practices to boost agricultural production in the region. The American agricultural practices shaped Bukidnon's agricultural development, which is evident in the present. The agricultural colonies seen as a tool for integrating the natives through the new methods of mechanized agriculture. The Americans benefitted more on this development in agriculture.

### **Colonial Encounters and Native Integration in Shaping Bukidnon's Agricultural Landscape**

The colonial influence and the native's adaption of modern farming practices had significantly shaped the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. During the American colonial period, Bukidnon experienced profound changes driven by traditional farming methods and the subsequent imposition of new agricultural policies. The traditional farming practices and the colonial way of agriculture created unique agricultural landscape in Bukidnon.

Most natives in Bukidnon did not resist the changes brought about by American colonial rule; instead, they embraced these transformations much as they had when confronted by the Spanish Jesuits. They transitioned into the new colonial system, adopting new ideas as complements to their existing culture, customs, and traditions. The natives actively collaborated with the Americans, particularly in integrating new agricultural tools and farming practices to enhance their social and economic conditions. While adapting to these innovations, they unwaveringly maintained their traditional ceremonies and practices in planting and harvesting.

These interactions have significantly shaped the farming methods and agricultural policies in the province. The introduction of new crops and techniques during the American colonial period seamlessly integrated into the traditional agricultural system, resulting in a substantial increase in agricultural production.

The interaction between the native population and Americans in agricultural practices had profound socio-economic consequences. The introduction of cash crops and improved agricultural methods significantly enhanced the province's economic landscape. However, these benefits were not shared equitably, as many natives faced the displacement of their traditional ways of life due to new land reforms and colonial policies.

American influence undeniably transformed the province's agriculture. The adoption of innovative crops, advanced farming tools, and modern cultivation techniques



fundamentally altered traditional agricultural practices. Consequently, native lands were overtaken by commercial farms, resulting in intense conflicts over resource management and land rights. The year 1930s marked a significant period of national integration in Bukidnon into the Philippine national polity and economy. The exposure of the Bukidnon's to the dominant culture of the migrants centered, in Luzon and the Visayas, gradually eroded the traditional cultural security as they were assimilated into the larger Filipino society. This integration, implemented by the American colonial rule and the Commonwealth era, was disrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

The establishment of agricultural colonies facilitated by the process of pacification and assimilation of the natives. Based on the accounts of 18th century Jesuit missionaries, the commercial merchants in the Northern coasts funneled the commodities like the abaca, coffee and cacao from the natives to the elite traders of Cagayan De Oro City. According to the Jesuits missionary, it lead the natives to retreat the forested area and refuse to in the areas of the small Jesuit towns. When the Americans arrived in Bukidnon they met resistance from the natives , for instance, in April 1910 Manolo Fortitch claimed that almost 100 Bukidnon families resided to Mount Kitanglad to perform religious rituals, the same as well to the natives in the nearby town of Impasug-ong. This resistance considered by Frederick Lewis as the reactions of the natives to assign them into a model Villages. There are natives who retreated to the forest and join religious groups and they live as bandits or *magahats* (blood avengers), referred by Lewis as lawlessness living in the mountain. This resistance was not directly to the Americans colonial rule it was for the purpose of retaliation of the *magahats* to response from the ambush and violence towards the presence of the *dumagat settlers*. The interaction of the natives to the American colonial officials, the migrants and the agricultural corporations introduced dynamic relationship in matters of economic and cultural dynamics. The natives interaction during the American period was classified into three groups, according to Lao we have first, Economically well-off and largely assimilated to the lowland society who were directly benefited to the socio-economic progress of Bukidnon. Secondly, the marginally integrated to the laborers of pineapple plantations and practice sedentary farming on the slopes and experienced limited accessed to land ownership. Lastly, the natives who live in a remote area and practice swidden agriculture.

These groups of natives classified by Lao, clearly present a picture of how the American colonizers and natives established a dynamic relationship in the progress of agriculture in Bukidnon. Many natives have assimilated into lowland society but still retain their agricultural practices maintaining land ownership and practiced different rituals and ceremonies. The agricultural methods that proved to be effective in convincing the Bukidnon's to settle in the towns has been the equipping of disk plows that successfully cultivate land for plantation than the underlying soils with mattocks.

In the present like the natives Bukidnon the Manobo who is situated in the southwestern part of Bukidnon the Mulita, Kalilangan and Pangantucan still practiced the traditional sacrifices offered in traditional swidden agriculture, rice-growing system has been incorporated, into a new methods of rice cultivation and production in the plowed fields. The thanksgiving rituals is evolving in period of years depends on the various crops they planted and produce. The used of scientific farming like the methods for pests and disease control was limit by the natives as they are more engaged in a practiced of sacrifices to eliminate disease and pest. The use of fertilizer is the other methods introduced by the Americans that adopted by the natives to augment the fertility of the soil, and insecticides to control plant pests and diseases.

The establishment of agricultural colony like Pineapple Plantations offers natives position in the company in exchange to their land to grow pineapple. The promise of employment many natives more willing to lend their titles. The companies are leasing land for a continue increase the growing pineapple. The arrival of the Americans and the agricultural businesses in Bukidnon many natives on the lowlands were integrated into the colonial policies through the establishment of farm schools and the introduction of new methods in agricultural practices provided an avenue to make the province of Bukidnon into a larger economic sphere.

The natives traditional agricultural practices and the introduction of colonial farming methods resulted a unique dynamics in shaping the landscape of the Bukidnon. In which up until today, practices and rituals in planting and harvesting crops is still present with the blend of colonial influence. For natives, land is part of their identity, the land is life for the natives they viewed land as capable resources for producing food for their own consumption. While the Americans saw the land as something to developed and cultivated for economic progress. The arrival of the Americans in the province they use the process of pacification towards the natives to integrate economic prosperity, but in this case natives were not directly benefited but their collaborative relationship in farming practices and agricultural production shape the agricultural landscape of the province .

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The natives of Bukidnon and the American colonizer established a collaborative relationship in shaping the agricultural landscape of the province. This collaboration however, was not without challenges as it also faces adaptation and negotiations. Under American colonial rule, Bukidnon witnessed the expansion of commercial agriculture through the cultivation of new crop varieties, the introduction of modern farming techniques, and the implementation of agricultural policies aimed at integrating the province into the broader colonial economic system. These changes, while aimed at

increasing agricultural productivity for export, also disrupted pre-existing native farming practices and land tenure systems.

The native populations traditional sacrifices offered in the old practices of swidden agriculture of the rice-growing system over the years carried the new methods of growing rice in the plowed fields. These sacrifices in growing rice is still evident but no longer in other crops. The natives thanksgiving rituals was still practiced those ceremonies. The introduction of the plow and carabao allows the native to keep grasses and weeds from the corn fields. The natives adaptations of new agricultural practices relates to population increase as they managed to shift from a subsistence rice economy to a cash-crop economy. In the present, natives in Bukidnon applying the new agricultural methods at the same time preserving their old practices. For instances, the *pamuhat* this ceremonies is still observed by the natives to ask permission and honor spirits in the forested areas other rituals in planting and harvesting crops is still preserved in the present mixed up with the new method of farming practices.

Studying the colonial encounter in Bukidnon provides insight into the collaborative relationship between the natives and the American colonizers in shaping the agricultural landscape of the province. The American colonization of Bukidnon brought significant alterations to the agricultural landscape through the introduction of new crops, the reorganization of land use patterns, and the imposition of a market-oriented agricultural system. These changes had profound implications for local economies, social structures, and environmental conditions. The shift from subsistence agriculture, rooted in communal practices, to a more commercial, export-driven model marked a pivotal transformation in the region's agricultural dynamics.

In this context, understanding the historical impact of colonialism on Bukidnon's agriculture is important in addressing contemporary agricultural challenges. The legacies of colonial land policies, crop introductions, and the commercial agricultural system persist, influencing current debates on land reform, food security, and sustainable farming practices. By critically examining the colonial period, we gain valuable insights into the ongoing struggles faced by local farmers and the need for policies that reconcile economic development with the preservation of indigenous knowledge and ecological sustainability.

The theory of *localization* offers strong framework for analyzing the native-colonizer relationship in the context of Bukidnon's agriculture. This theoretical approach emphasizes the ways in which local factors—such as geographic conditions, traditional agricultural practices, and socioeconomic structures—interacted with and adapted to broader colonial policies and agricultural practices. *Localization* theory suggests that while colonial powers imposed new systems and technologies, local communities in Bukidnon were not passive

recipients of these changes. Instead, they engaged with, adapted, and at times resisted colonial interventions, incorporating new methods into existing practices and adapting them to local ecological and social contexts.

The application of this theory to Bukidnon's agricultural history provides a understanding of how local communities responded to American colonial rule. It highlights the ways in which natives agricultural systems were reshaped in response to the colonial imposition of a market-oriented economy, yet also reveals the persistence of traditional practices and the selective incorporation of colonial innovations. In the case of Bukidnon, the integration of colonial agricultural policies was not a one-sided process, but rather a dynamic interaction between colonizers and the local population, with long-term implications for the province's agricultural economy and its social fabric.

In conclusion. recognizing the lasting effects of colonialism in shaping agricultural systems, land tenure, and economic development is essential for crafting policies that honor indigenous knowledge, promote sustainable practices, and address the pressing agricultural challenges of the present. Ultimately, this study acknowledges both the historical legacies of colonialism and the resilience of native communities in adopting to and transforming their agricultural methods and practices.

### **Recommendation**

This study focuses on the interactions between the native and American colonizers in shaping the agricultural landscape of Bukidnon. The collaborative relationship of these natives and Americans resulted a sustainable agricultural production that making the province as one the agricultural hub in the Philippines.

The study's conclusion led to the formulation of the following recommendations.

1.A study of natives' traditional agricultural practices using the lens of oral history and record keeping.

2.A Study of the development of the American Agricultural policies in Bukidnon after the Second World War and Philippine Independence.

3.A comprehensive study of the environmental impacts of specific agricultural practices introduced by the American colonizers.

4.A study on the cultural implications of agricultural practices and changes affecting natives' identity and social structure.

5.A thorough study of the influx of migrations in Bukidnon focusing on their role in the agricultural sector, economic implications, and social dynamics.

6.A further study of the experimental farm settlements in Bukidnon during the American period

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