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## Research Article

### Tax Knowledge, Tax Enforcement Efforts, and Tax Compliance among Agribusinesses in Tagum City

Honey Mae J. Barbosa, Christine Mae G. Galo, Princess Claire G. Paig, Joe Mari N. Flores

Department of Accounting Education, University of Mindanao Tagum College 8800, Philippines

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#### \*Corresponding author:

E-mail:

[joemari.flores@umindanao.edu.ph](mailto:joemari.flores@umindanao.edu.ph)

## ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to identify the relationship between tax knowledge and tax enforcement efforts towards tax compliance of agri-business owners in Tagum City that could benefit the Agri-business owners, BIR, LGUs, Department of Agriculture (DA), and future researchers. The sample size of 259 was determined using the Slovin formula, and respondents were identified through simple random sampling. The results of this study are based on the data gathered from respondents who are managers, owners, or accounting staff of a registered agri-business through the dissemination of an adopted questionnaire authored by Twum et al. (2020) and Oladele et al. (2019) for the independent variables and Abdulazeez et al. (2018) for the dependent variable. Statistical tools used in this study are mean and Pearson r. The results of this study show that the level of tax knowledge, tax enforcement efforts, and tax compliance are all very high. In addition, the results indicate a positive significant relationship between tax knowledge and tax compliance and relationship between tax enforcement efforts and tax compliance. Thus, the null hypothesis of the two relationships in this study is rejected. The study suggests considering tax knowledge and tax enforcement efforts to improve tax compliance.

**Keywords:** Tax knowledge, Tax enforcement efforts, Tax compliance, Agribusiness, Philippines

## Introduction

Tax plays an essential role in the economic development of a country. The taxpayers' tax payment provides money that the government sets aside for advancing a nation and its citizens. As per various authors, the three essential functions of a robust tax system in a country's

development are revenue generation, inequality reduction, and the encouragement of responsible leadership (Cobham, 2005, p. 208). Tax compliance is defined by Song and Yarbrough (1978, p. 443) as self-assessment and readiness to abide by tax laws. Moreover, Maquiling, Manolong, Naong, and Sumaylo

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(2023, p. 41) stated in their study that tax compliance can be viewed from administration and tax return completion. Administration- wise, tax compliance is mainly concerned with registration and tax information agencies, whereas compliance with tax completion returns focuses on filing taxes and meeting deadlines. Correct tax base reporting, timely return filing, and precise liability computation are all considered aspects of tax compliance (Murphy 2008, p. 113). Through taxation, economic growth is encouraged, leading to improved living standards and heightened employment opportunities.

However, tax compliance has become a significant issue in most countries (Sebele- Mpofu & Msipa, 2020, p. 194-198). A study shows that tax compliance is influenced by various elements, including a lack of taxpayer knowledge, which reveals the poor level of tax compliance (Amin et al., 2022, p. 57). Another factor affecting tax compliance would be weak enforcement efforts, which hinders taxpayers' reason to pay their taxes (Slemrod 2019, p.904- 954).

An estimated \$300 billion is the tax gap, or uncollected taxes, in the United States due to non-compliance, as stated by the Internal Revenue Service. These significant tax gaps may occur in other nations. (Alm & McKee 2018, p. 331). Because of this, practically every nation that imposes a tax system has problems with tax compliance (Onwuka 2019, p. 468). Like in other countries with similar economies, taxes remain the primary revenue source. For the government in Thailand. However, some citizens attempt to avoid or evade such tax burdens in illegal ways, which damage the government administration's budget allocation, making the government's aid to lower the tax burden through regulations remain ineffective, as stated by Adebisi & Orsaa (2013, as cited in Thramongsak & Kanjana, 2022 p.2).

In the Philippines, the government prioritizes tax compliance since non-compliance would mean lost income that may be allocated to government programs (Assfaw &Sebhat, 2019, p. 47). According to research, just 60% of business owners are familiar with Philippine tax laws. (Angeles, 2021, p.10) and that it influences taxpayers' compliance with taxes. Moreover, (Dela Cruz, 2017, p. 261) states that out of

the seven registered in a compliance area, only 4% have a compliance rate of 95% to 100%. Out of 900,000 MSMEs are working in an informal economy where they are not keeping books of accounts, are not registered, and are non- compliant, which means they are operating beyond tax laws, as stated by Du-Balabad (2016, as cited in Paco & Quezon 2022, p.6264). Palabrica (2016, as mentioned in Paco & Quezon 2022, p.6265) stated that, unfortunately, taxes are fundamentally wicked in the eyes of the Filipino people instead of being a patriotic measure to help the government pay for its expenses. As of now, there are no existing studies specifically focusing on the tax compliance of agribusinesses in the Philippines. Most available research on tax compliance in the country primarily examines small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in general without distinguishing the unique challenges and circumstances faced by agribusinesses.

Additionally, Maquiling, Manolong, Naong, and Sumaylo (2023, p. 41) stated that the poll in their study revealed how frequently SMEs make unofficial payments as part of their compliance with regulations, mainly to prevent delays when interacting with the government. Typically, informal payments made up only 2% of all the costs incurred by SMEs in the survey. In all places, SMEs located in Davao reported an everyday payment percentage of 3.40 percent of their total expenses compared to Metro Manila residents.

Tax compliance problems in provinces vary widely based on each region's specific economic, social, and regulatory contexts. Cain and Montaño (2021, p.36) noticed, based on their three-year work experience in an accounting firm, that the majority of SMEs continue to struggle with tax compliance issues in Tagum City. One of the examples of failure in paying proper taxes is the shutdown, including eleven salon locations and a few pharmacies in Tagum, which the city's tax administrators managed. Consequently, to provide the beneficiaries with helpful guidance, this study will assist in identifying the significant relationship between each component and tax compliance.

There is only one study on tax compliance that has been published in the province of Davao del Norte; however, this study did not

specifically focus on agribusinesses. This lack of research on the tax compliance of agribusinesses in the province presents a significant gap in the existing literature, highlighting the need for further studies to address this overlooked sector.

## **Research Objectives**

This research aims to comprehend the fundamentals of tax knowledge, tax enforcement efforts, and tax knowledge. It also attempts to determine the relationship between tax knowledge, tax enforcement efforts, and the tax compliance of Tagum City's agribusinesses. Specifically, the study seeks to answer the following statement: To identify the level of tax knowledge of agri-businesses in terms of Knowledge of tax rights and responsibilities, Knowledge of business income, and Awareness of sanctions. To determine the level of tax enforcement effort perceived by agribusinesses in tax audits, tax penalties, and tax amnesty. To identify the level of tax compliance of agribusinesses in terms of Registering, Filing, Reporting, and Payment. To ascertain the significant relationship between tax knowledge and tax compliance with Agribusinesses in Tagum City. Lastly, to establish the significant relationship between Tax Enforcement Efforts perceived by Agri-businesses in Tagum City and their Tax Compliance.

## **Hypothesis**

The null hypothesis, which will be tested at a significance level of 0.05, asserts no meaningful relationship exists between tax knowledge, tax enforcement efforts, and tax compliance of Tagum City's agribusinesses.

## **Methods**

The methods and procedures employed by the proponents' research study are detailed in this chapter. These include research participants, instruments, design and data-gathering procedures, and statistical data treatment.

## **Research Participants**

The research study participants consist of registered agriculture-related business owners, managers, cashiers, store in-charge, or accounting staff in Tagum City, Davao del Norte,

that have been in operation for a minimum of three years. Businesses that didn't fit the requirements above were not considered respondents to the survey. Using the Raosoft Sample Size Calculator, the sample size was established. The Business Permit and Licensing Office data for 2022 shows that 599 agribusinesses in Tagum City fit the criteria. The study's sample size consists of 235 Tagum City agribusinesses. However, we allowed for 10% of the sample size in case the selected samples are unavailable, which makes the sample size 259 in this study. After that, the researchers calculated the proportion of respondents in each barangay to determine the sample size, ensuring every barangay in Tagum City had a representative. Respondents were identified through Simple Random Sampling using a Research Randomizer.

In addition, the researchers considered the constraints, such as the time and resources available for manually distributing survey questionnaires, when calculating the total number of respondents.

## **Research Instrument**

An adapted survey questionnaire was used to conduct this study. The tax knowledge questionnaire was authored by Twum et al. (2020). Oladele et al. (2019) wrote the questionnaire for tax enforcement efforts, and tax compliance was authored by Abdulazeez et al. (2018). Survey forms were utilized to gather data from the respondents. The researchers modified the questions to include only relevant questions relevant to the study.

The respondents were provided data on the two criteria using a five-part Likert scale in the questionnaire. Five points were assigned to each item on the five-point scale: 5 for Strongly Agree, 4 for Moderately Agree, 3 for Agree, 2 for Disagree, and 1 for Very Disagree. The questionnaires were selected because they contained common questions that could be sent out to many respondents in Tagum City at a low cost and in a short time. The questionnaire consists of three (3) parts. The first two parts are under the independent variable, Tax Knowledge and Tax Enforcement Efforts; the third is under the dependent variable, Tax Compliance, which uses a five-point Likert Scale to

design its questions. The tool utilized in collecting data for the research is the questionnaire. The questionnaire was first submitted to the adviser for review and revisions. Followed by the validation of each item by a panel of experts, the questionnaire determined the reliability of the index.

### **Research Design and Procedure**

The descriptive correlational study approach found a significant association between the variables. The researchers used this approach to examine whether the independent variables and dependent variable are related without assuming a cause-and-effect relationship and prefer to explore in an ethical, simple and non-causal way without any complexities that Regression Analysis have.

To gather information, the researchers have (1) Obtained permission to conduct the study; (2) formalized and validated the survey questionnaire with feedback from the panel members; (3) distributed survey questionnaires to the appropriate respondents; and (4) gathered, evaluated, and analyzed the data. The questionnaire was distributed face-to-face because the survey respondents are situated in and around Tagum City. The researchers also provided an informed consent form by the respondents, which stated that all information provided would be kept completely confidential, that participation in the study is entirely voluntary, and that participants are free to decline participation at any time if it makes them feel uncomfortable. The researchers examined the survey questionnaires to ensure all questions were completed. The survey results were subsequently forwarded to the designated statistician to obtain a legitimate statistical treatment, interpretation, and analysis.

To determine the impacts of each study variable, statistical treatment was used. Pearson r and the mean make up this data. The mean shall be employed to calculate the total of the set of data characterizing the three variables. The significant relationship between the variables was analyzed using Pearson r.

### **Result and Discussion**

This chapter assessed the tax knowledge and tax enforcement efforts of agribusinesses

in Tagum City regarding Tax Compliance. This chapter presents the levels of Tax Knowledge, Tax Enforcement Efforts, and Tax Compliance by the overall mean score, standard deviation, and descriptive level of the measured indicator. It also presents the relationship between Tax Knowledge and Tax Compliance and the relationship between Tax Enforcement Efforts and Tax Compliance.

#### **RO1: Level of Tax Knowledge among Agribusinesses in Tagum City**

Presented in Table 1 below is the indicator's mean score of Tax Knowledge with a computed mean of 4.65, which is described as very high with a standard deviation of 0.408.

Awareness of Sanctions has the highest mean score of 4.76 among the three Tax Knowledge indicators with a 'very high' descriptive level. This means that agribusiness owners are aware of the sanctions if they do not comply with their tax obligations. According to the study of Palil and Mustapha (2011, p. 31), awareness of sanctions has a strong effect as an indicator of tax knowledge towards tax compliance. Moreover, it is anticipated that tax authorities' sanctions and penalties linked to non-compliance will raise taxpayer awareness of their corresponding tax liability (Mukhlis 2015, p.162).

Knowledge of Business Income is the indicator with a 'very high' descriptive level and the second-highest mean score of 4.62. This result indicates that agribusiness owners are knowledgeable in handling their business income and dealing with their tax obligations. According to Kasipillai and Abdul-Jabbar (2006, p.75), a person or business is considered non-compliant if they understate their income, overstate their deductions, fail to file their tax returns within the allotted time, or fail to pay their assessed taxes by the deadline thus if a business is compliance then, therefore, they are knowledgeable in reporting their business income and deductions accurately, file and pay their tax obligations on time. In a self- assessment system, the taxpayer is personally liable to the tax authorities if an audit is required and, in a similar vein, asserted that the taxpayer's capacity to compute an accurate tax liability is determined by

his or her understanding of tax liability computation based on their business income (Fauziati, 2020, p. 25).

Lastly, the lowest mean score, with a mean of 4.59 and a 'very high' descriptive level, is the Knowledge of Tax Rights and Responsibilities. This implies that agribusiness owners are knowledgeable and aware of their tax rights and responsibilities. This result is supported by Negaro's (2019, p. 265) study that a voluntary tax compliance system requires tax expertise, which is essential for accurately determining their liability for taxes. Wasserman and Bornman (2020, p. 10) also added that for taxpayers to fully understand their tax payment responsibilities and eventually adhere to the regulations enforced by the government, they must acquire specific tax knowledge. Furthermore, ensuring people know the most recent tax rules can help fulfill these obligations. This is true for Malaysia, where taxpayers' tax returns are seen as their assessment and are subject to assessment penalties for failing to file an appropriate

tax return within a given time frame Alshirah (2022, p.1395)

The agribusiness owners' tax knowledge aggregate mean of 4.65 with a 'very high' descriptive level. This means that tax knowledge is very evident among agribusinesses in Tagum City. About this result, the study of Mukhlis et al. (2015, p. 161) stated that tax knowledge and tax compliance show a strong and positive correlation also it was found in the Eriksen & Fallan (1996, p. 388) study that getting more tax knowledge improved tax compliance and decreased tax evasion. Twum (2020, p. 222) added that tax education is applied to promote tax literacy to increase SME compliance in the setting of developing nations. In addition, according to Palil and Mustapha (2011, p. 32), familiarity with tax rights and obligations, employable income, personal relief, and awareness of tax offenses, penalties, and fines are measures of one's level of tax education that also results to a positive correlation to the tax compliance behavior of every taxpayer.

*Table 1. Level of Tax Knowledge among Agribusinesses in Tagum City*

Indicator	Mean	SD	Descriptive Level
Knowledge of Tax Rights and Responsibilities	4.59	0.507	Very High
Knowledge of Business Income	4.62	0.513	Very High
Awareness of Sanctions	4.76	0.436	Very High
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>0.408</b>	<b>Very High</b>

#### RO2: Level of Tax Enforcement Efforts among Agribusinesses in Tagum City

The mean scores for the Tax Enforcement Efforts, with a cumulative mean of 4.45, which is defined as very high, with a standard deviation of 0.601, are shown in Table 2 below.

To corroborate the investigation results, Oladele et al. (2019, p. 34) state that the tax enforcement effort is an innovative system that plays a vital role in enhancing tax compliance and aiding the tax authorities in carrying out their responsibilities. The tax penalty is one of the indicators of tax enforcement effort that has a very high mean, indicating that the majority of respondents view this variable as essential to compliance since the majority of the respondents stated that being penalized, mainly when discovered, can result in sealing up of

taxpayers' properties as restraints which increases tax compliance.

Furthermore, a tax audit is the second indicator that received a very high mean. This is a crucial instrument for accelerating tax compliance. In this regard, Oyedokun (2015, as cited in Oladele et al., 2019, p.30) proposed that during tax audits, tax authorities should drag corporate bodies, individuals, and charity organizations to full compliance and consider monitoring cash flows to survive. Moreover, the latter stated that exposure to tax audits demands accurate reporting, enhances taxpayer collaboration, adequate tax returns, identification of tax abnormalities, and standardized programs that help tax audits contribute to better tax compliance.

Tax amnesty, on the other hand, is the indication with the lowest mean. The study backs

this up by Wang & Hsieh (2015, as cited in Oladele et al., 2019, p.31), attesting that tax amnesties have been continuously utilized by many developed countries such as the US, Italy, and Argentina and garnered desired results which also aims to regularize their tax status and total compliance. In the study of Oladele et al. (2019, p. 34), results show that tax amnesty has the probability of lessening tax defaulters, propels the proclamation of all assets and income against illegal tax assessment, resulting in a wide tax net, and can better the tax compliance rate. This descriptive result could

be the least priority but still needs to change the fact that it is described as very high in the parameter limits, and it can inculcate willingness to comply with tax requirements by the taxpayers.

Generally, a tax enforcement effort that is secure and more equitable is a top priority that every administration should adopt as it helps ensure that the economy is suited for everyone, which provides fairness for workers and honest taxpayers (Hendricks & Hanlon 2021, pp 2 par.5).

*Table 2. Level of Tax Enforcement Efforts as Perceived by Agri-businesses in Tagum City*

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Descriptive Level</b>
Tax Audit	4.45	0.661	Very High
Tax Penalty	4.55	0.641	Very High
Tax Amnesty	4.34	0.664	Very High
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>0.601</b>	<b>Very High</b>

#### RO3: Level of Tax Compliance among Agribusinesses in Tagum City

The mean scores for Tax Compliance, with a cumulative mean of 4.76, which is defined as very high, with a standard deviation of 0.371, are shown in Table 3 below.

With a 'very high' descriptive level, payment has the highest mean score (4.93) out of the 4 Tax Compliance measures. This means that the agribusinesses are aware of and pay their taxes in compliance with their compliance as business owners. Rahman (2017, p 231) found that payment as one of the indicators of tax compliance has sufficient convergent validity. This means that the payment is about tax compliance. In addition, Maquiling, Manolong, Naong, and Sumaylo (2023, p. 47) supported the idea that to guarantee tax payments, the tax administrator must ensure that tax laws are followed and encourage taxpayer participation. In addition, the cost of complying with taxes significantly influences a taxpayer's desire to make tax payments, which is why the study by Oghuma (2018, p. 559) confirmed that payment hinders tax compliance. Furthermore, the complexity of tax law is associated with rising compliance costs, which could contribute to

non-compliance (Sinnasamy & Bidin 2017, p.69).

Reporting is the indicator with the second-highest mean score of 4.76 and a "very high" descriptive level. This implies that agribusiness reports their business income accurately as part of their compliance. According to a self-assessment system, tax compliance refers to the obligation to file the annual tax return and accurately report actual incomes (Sommerfeld 1994, pp 345), and Murphy (2008, p.113) added that tax compliance also entails truthful reporting of its tax base. Additionally, when considering tax compliance from a personal consequence standpoint, one must weigh the benefits of underreporting against the greater risk of being discovered and subject to fines to maximize revenue (McGraw & Scholz 1991 pp 33). Business taxpayers may need help with income tax administration when burdensome reporting and record-keeping obligations are imposed. For individuals who attempt to abide by the tax code, this has resulted in higher tax expenses (Baurer 2005, p 359).

Third, the highest mean score of 4.75 is the Registering with a 'very high' descriptive level. This is evident in the fact that agribusinesses register their businesses to operate. Rahman

(2017, p 231) states that the significant increase in registered individual taxpayers resulted from the government's efforts to promote taxation. Furthermore, Muturi and Kiarie's (2015, pp 280-281) tax compliance study shows a significant positive link between

online tax registration and implementing a tax system in Meru County, Kenya. filing, and tax remittance are strongly positively correlated. This suggests that the government can collect more money if SBE taxpayers use the tax system.

*Table 3. Level of Tax Compliance as Perceived by Agri-businesses in Tagum City*

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Descriptive Level</b>
Registering	4.75	0.389	Very High
Filing	4.59	0.456	Very High
Reporting	4.76	0.436	Very High
Payment	4.93	0.302	Very High
<b>Overall</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>0.371</b>	<b>Very High</b>

RO4: Significance of the Relationship between Tax Knowledge and Tax Compliance among agri-businesses in Tagum City

Lastly, Filing as one of the indicators of Tax Compliance got the lowest mean score of 4.59 but still had a 'very high' descriptive level. This means that agribusinesses file their tax returns as part of their compliance. According to Oghuma's (2018, p. 559) study, filing is one of the factors that deter tax compliance. Kiring'a et al. (2017, p. 45195) added that there is a substantial correlation between tax compliance and perceptions of the simplicity and convenience of tax filing. Enachescu et al. (2019, p.129) found that taxpayers who have a positive experience paying their taxes are more motivated to comply with government regulations and feel more compliant.

The agribusiness owners' tax compliance aggregate mean of 4.76 with a 'very high' descriptive level. Tax compliance is very evident among agribusiness owners in Tagum City. It is also supported by the study of Simuyu and Jagongo (2019, pp 45196), which shows that there is a substantial correlation between the perception of tax filing as straightforward and easy to submit, as well as the system's security, which enhances tax compliance rates. Moreover, according to research by Motwani et al. (2015, p. 20), using tax systems in India is voluntary. They also found that this voluntary use increases tax compliance when taxpayers file their tax forms and make payments. Similar to this, the findings of Muturi and Kiarie's (2015,

p. 281) study on tax compliance show that tax compliance among small taxpayers in Meru County, Kenya, and the adoption of a tax system through tax registration, tax return

Table 4 below illustrates the significance of the relationship between tax knowledge and tax compliance. It shows that the R-value of 0.575 indicates a positive correlation between the variables with a P-value of 0.001, accomplishing the study's fourth objective. The agribusinesses demonstrate a positive and direct relationship between tax knowledge and tax compliance. This suggests that the null hypothesis should be rejected because the P-value is less than the 5% significance level.

This relationship is hinged in social learning theory. Within the framework of this study, which focuses on the process of tax compliance behavior, it is consistent with the methods of obtaining tax information through social learning. The notion holds that people and societies pick up knowledge from one another through observations, imitations, and orientations. The way that taxpayers learn about taxes through social learning is related to the notion of social learning. Similarly, compliance and obedience can be connected to social learning. (Mandari 2017, p. 63) and Vaughan (2005, p. 14) corroborated that shared learning can accelerate compliance. In addition, the Social Learning Theory's applicability to appreciation strategies is that if taxpayers feel their compliance will be rewarded, they will strive to pay more attention to and abide by tax laws (Jatmiko, 2006, p. 89). Additionally, Wassermann and Bornman

(2022, p.1-11) proved that knowledge of tax law is essential for taxpayers to understand their responsibilities and ultimately comply with their obligations.

Thus, a strong correlation exists between tax compliance and tax knowledge of Tagum

City's agribusinesses. This correlation shows that when agribusinesses have a high level of tax knowledge, their tax compliance is also very much evident.

*Table 4. Significance of the Relationship between Tax Knowledge and Tax Compliance*

Variables	Mean	SD	r-value	p-value	Decision
<b>Tax Knowledge</b>	4.65	0.49			
<b>Tax Compliance</b>	4.76	0.371			
			0.0575	<0.001	Reject HO

**Interpretation:** Significant Positive Relationship

\*Significant at 0.05 significance level

RO5: Significance of the Relationship between Tax Enforcement Efforts and Tax Compliance among agri-businesses in Tagum City

Table 5 below illustrates the significance of the relationship between tax enforcement efforts and tax compliance. It shows that the fifth objective of the study is achieved, with an R-value of 0.617, indicating a positive correlation between the variables and a P-value of 0.001. The null hypothesis should be rejected because the P-value is less than the 5% significance level, indicating that the tax enforcement efforts viewed by agri-businesses are positively associated and directly proportional to tax compliance.

This is supported by the study of Chelangat (2022, p.55), who unveiled that tax enforcement efforts strongly influence tax compliance, suggesting that inspections with SMEs should be constant and enforce stricter fines and penalties for non-compliance. This is anchored in the theory of Allingham-Sandmo (1972, as cited in Chelangat 2022 p.11), which implies that where the possibility of detection is high, and the penalties for non-compliance in taxes

are severe, compliance will be very evident. Allingham and Sandmo (1972 p 323) discovered that taxpayer behavior, including tax rate, fraud penalties, and the chance of getting caught, was influenced by the costs and advantages of evasion, such as compliance. This suggests that relatively few people will avoid paying taxes if there is a substantial likelihood of discovery and harsh penalties. In addition to low penalties, low audit probabilities result in a significant expected return on evasion. This approach, therefore, expects a high level of non-compliance. Therefore, tax administrators have applied the concepts of this philosophy to a considerable extent while refining enforcement strategies that rely primarily on penalties and the fear of being discovered.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between tax enforcement efforts perceived by agri-businesses and tax compliance of agri-businesses in Tagum City, and this correlation exemplifies that when tax enforcement efforts perceived by agri-businesses are very highly evident, the compliance in tax is also very much evident.

*Table 5. Significance of the Relationship between Tax Enforcement Efforts and Tax Compliance*

Variables	Mean	SD	r-value	p-value	Decision
<b>Tax Enforcement Efforts</b>	4.45	0.601			
<b>Tax Compliance</b>	4.76	0.371			
			0.617	<0.001	Reject HO

**Interpretation:** Significant Positive Relationship

\*Significant at 0.05 significance level

## Conclusion

The conclusions that were compiled utilizing statistical techniques and instruments are presented in this chapter. There is a very high degree of tax knowledge, tax enforcement efforts, and tax compliance. Findings suggest that improving tax education programs and stricter enforcement mechanisms could further enhance compliance rates. Policymakers should consider targeted tax awareness campaigns for agribusinesses and digitalized tax monitoring systems to strengthen enforcement.

Social Learning Theory and the Allingham Sandmo Theory support the conclusions above. The Social Learning Theory states that a business owner will comply if they have seen and experienced it firsthand, particularly after learning that taxes significantly impact a region's growth (Jatmiko, 2006, p. 86). According to Wassermann and Bornman (2020, p. 1-11), understanding tax law is essential for taxpayers to understand their obligations and ultimately comply with their responsibility. Additionally, Alshirah's (2022, p.1397) research shows that taxpayer compliance with tax payment increases as tax knowledge increases.

Meanwhile, the Allingham Sandmo Theory supports the relationship between tax enforcement efforts and tax compliance. This theory proves that the relationship between the two variables is always positive, and according to the study of Bork (2004, p.730), it shows that Bork [2004, p. 730] that tax enforcement and tax compliance are always correlated by demonstrating that tax enforcement could, when combined with high tax rates and high retributive transfer, have an effect of lower tax evasion.

## Recommendations

In addition to the study's execution, the analysis and findings helped the researchers provide recommendations aimed at reducing the challenges faced by agribusinesses in complying with tax regulations. It was determined that tax enforcement efforts and tax knowledge are closely related to and impact tax compliance. Given the research's findings below, the proponents would want to suggest the following:

First, for the owners of agribusiness SMEs, this study shows that they may hire a professional accountant, tax advisor, or bookkeeper to help them comply with the paperwork requirements of their industry. Additionally, for them to be informed and aware of the consequences of failing to file their taxes, they should attend any seminars or workshops that are explicitly focused on filing and complying with their taxes.

Second, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Local Government Units, this study will help policymakers develop efficient tax rules and regulations as well as programs and initiatives that will uphold the education and awareness of all agribusiness owners. In addition, implement a digital tax filing system that for any business especially agribusinesses to reduce paperwork and organize tax seminars for the owners to be aware.

Third, the Department of Agriculture this study will help the department to organize more seminars and workshops in partnership with Bureau of Internal Revenue and Local Government Unit to not just only discuss about agriculture but also about tax and responsibilities of agribusiness owners.

Fourth, to the public, since it provides fresh information on the problem currently afflicting the sector, especially small-scale farmers, people will be more knowledgeable of the benefits and possible uses of preventing non-compliance.

Lastly, to the Present and Future Scholars and Researchers, it is beneficial to those who plan to do similar research on the same topic to utilize the results of this study as a foundation for further improvement and to spread awareness. For them also to conduct a longitudinal study to measure the long-term impact of tax enforcement on compliance.

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