

Arlanza, Ricardo S., Prudenciano U. Gordoncillo, Hans Meliczek, Juan Amor F. Palafox, and Linda M. Peñalba. The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program: Scenarios and Options for Future Development. Department of Agrarian Reform-German Technical Cooperation (DAR-GTZ). April 2006.

The study aimed to review and explore various options on actions to be taken for the expected changes in the rural setting after the completion of land acquisition and distribution (LAD) under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). It was conducted by a team composed of international agrarian reform expert and four national agrarian reform specialists. It made use of secondary data and workshops with key stakeholders in DAR and in CARP implementing agencies in assessing the accomplishments and impact of CARP over the last 16 years (1988 to 2004). It also adopted the Scenario Forecasting Methodology to describe possible Program (CARP) scenario by end of 2008 and as a tool to initiate discussions among CARP stakeholders on the future of CARP given the key political, economic, and institutional issues surrounding its implementation. The study identified four program scenarios by end of 2008 such as: 1) Business as Usual; 2) Sprint to the Line; 3) Clean Break; and 4) Hercules. The study came up with a synthesis of strategic thrusts and directions to be considered in completing LAD, in particular private agricultural land (PAL) under compulsory acquisition (CA) mode, and in developing a comprehensive service delivery strategy for rural development including ARBs and other small farmers. The study also identified five options on the future role of DAR and its arrangements with other rural development agencies. These options are: Option 1: DAR continues to exist and operate as at present and expands its functions towards rural development; Option 2: DAR focuses on land tenure improvement (LTI) and agrarian justice delivery (AJD) functions; Option 3: DAR focuses on AJD functions; Option 4: DAR shifts from LAD to support services; and Option 5: DAR shifts to rural development and merges with the Department of Agriculture (DA). The scenarios and strategic options provided under the study highlight the enormous political, legal and institutional reforms that must be put in place. Firm government decision will be required to address these challenges. In the same way, government has to generate and win back the strong support from civil society and agrarian reform advocates.