

Tadem, Eduardo C. and Efaniel Asumen. "Building Social Capital Among Agrarian Reform Stakeholders In The Philippines". Policy Studies on Agrarian Reform. Project Development Institute, UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. October 2000.

The policy study aimed to identify practices and institutions in Philippine rural society, which exhibit manifestations of social capital formation and development. It was undertaken to assist the DAR in formulating the necessary programs and projects that will facilitate social capital formation among agrarian reform stakeholders, particularly the farmer-beneficiaries. The study sites chosen were two Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) in Bulacan province i.e., the Umpucan ARC in San Ildefonso town and a cluster ARC in Baliuag town known as the PMCT ARC. The conclusions drawn from the field studies are: certain adverse conditions such as El Niño could have contrasting effects on social capital in different communities; and determining and pursuing a community's agreed goals are important for social capital building even as reaching a consensus on this is not easy; there is always a danger of overestimating a community's capacity to absorb and put to good use such resources. The study also concludes that a critical mass is necessary to build social capital and sustain the benefits from them. However, not all social capital is positive as personalistic social relations prevent organizations from efficiently managing resources, whether internally or externally generated. Lastly, a homogenous population is a positive trait that leads to common livelihood concerns, family roots, and a history of shared undertakings, e.g., land struggles. Within the existing liberal framework for agrarian reform implementation in the Philippines, social capital can play a vital role in undertaking a less contentious approach to the land distribution component of the program. In this context, the implementing agencies for agrarian reform led by the DAR can look more closely at how social capital can be built and sustained in order to make the program work better and successfully implemented.