

Gordoncillo, Prudenciano, U. et al. An Assessment of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and its Impacts on Rural Communities II: Meso Perspective. University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation, Inc. (UPLBFI). November 2007.

This study aimed to provide principal empirical evidence for determining the impact of the CARP between the years 2000 and 2006 on agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and non-ARBs and on agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and non-ARCs to determine if the positive impact of CARP on ARBs demonstrated in the first round studies on CARP-IA Phase I (2000) has been sustained and reinforced in the last six years. The meso study used the case study approach in six sites producing different types of agricultural crops such as rice, corn, coconut, sugarcane, pineapple and banana and compares the same crop with a counterpart non-ARC. A resurvey was done of the respondents covered by 2000 CARP-IA Studies (Phase I) in the six case study sites which includes: Echague, Isabela; San Antonio, Quezon; Pili, Camarines Sur; La Carlota City, Negros Occidental; Mabini and Pantukan, Compostela Valley; and Tupi, South Cotabato. The results of the meso case studies indicate the positive impacts of agrarian reform on farmer-beneficiaries in both ARCs and non-ARCs. Overall, the real per capita income was consistently higher for ARBs than non-ARBs in 2000 and 2006, except in one case in Quezon. Further, the optimism of ARBs of their socio-economic condition was reflected in the higher proportion of ARBs than non-ARBs who considered themselves non-poor. The study also highlighted the importance of externally-funded projects for the physical and social improvements of the ARCs. However, the study shows that since the ARC approach involves many dimensions and many agencies and individuals working cooperatively, the rates of success of ARCs vary across areas and would depend on the extent of support and assistance from the Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) and DAR field personnel, and the extent of cooperation among the government agencies especially the local government unit (LGU). Notably, weak, inactive or divisive characteristics of existing farmers' cooperatives or organizations may retard potential successes of ARCs.