

Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies, Inc. (REECS) and Meganomics Specialist International, Inc. Impact Assessment Study of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP), Volume IIC Other Studies: Technical Assessment of ARCDP Infrastructure Component. November 2003.

The Technical Assessment of ARCDP Infrastructure Component is part of the Impact Assessment Study of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) which was conducted to examine the quality of works and experiences in the implementation of the Rural Infrastructure (RI) component of the project. Specifically, it aimed to: a) evaluate the quality of works; b) identify the benefits brought about by the project; c) provide insights on the factors that either constrained or enhanced project implementation; d) determine the sustainability of benefits derived from the project. The study involved the review of existing project documents and the conduct of field visits and interviews of key informants in selected study sites in Isabela (Northern Luzon), Albay (Southern Luzon), Leyte (Visayas) and Davao (Mindanao). The technical assessment of the quality of RI sub-projects based on physical, project cost and duration of implementation shows that the quality of work is acceptable and has met the required criteria. The facilitating factors that contributed to the successful implementation of the project are as follows: project design (i.e., appropriateness, sustainability of mode of implementation, effective procurement process, and clearly specified targets); strong capacity of project implementers; and high level of support and cooperation of the project beneficiaries. Notably, the sustaining factors identified in the project implementation are: built-in provisions in the ARCDP Project Design wherein the failure of LGU to maintain the project will result in the conversion of the financial assistance into a loan; the organizations that were formed to help maintain the project; and LGU support through allotment of funds for maintenance purpose. On the other hand, the constraining factors include: unfavorable weather condition and unsuitable site condition; undue political intervention; unfavorable peace and order condition; and financial constraints. As a whole, the study shows clearly that the success of the RI project is the result of joint effort of the communities, the implementing agencies, the lending institution and the various support groups involved in the project implementation.