

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO). Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Report: Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project II (ARISP II). 2007.

The Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) study on the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project II (ARISP II) was conducted to assess how benefits from ARISP II interventions were being felt in the project sites, and how some of the positive improvements insofar as the quality of life of household-beneficiaries were being sustained. The ARISP II was implemented using an integrated package approach to reduce poverty incidence in 150 agrarian reform communities (ARCs) located in 61 provinces by improving productivity and income levels, and transforming these ARCs into viable, organized and self-reliant communities. The study made use of both secondary and primary data. A comparative analysis of the data were undertaken through a “before-and-after project” analysis of ARISP beneficiaries and a “with-and-without project” analysis of ARISP II performance. The findings of the study show that on the aggregate level, average annual household income almost doubled (in nominal terms), from PhP49,324 in 2001 to PhP98,629 in 2007 which is equivalent to an average increase of about 17 percent annually. In real terms, income levels increased by about 52 percent from an average of PhP46,184 to PhP70,149 (using 2000 prices). Moreover, the aggregate income levels of the ARISP II beneficiaries were more than twice higher than that of the respondents in non-ARISP II areas. Poverty reduction in nine (9) out of 13 ARISP II ARCs ranged from two (2) percent to as high as 54 percent. The other four (4) ARISP II ARCs show worsening poverty incidence ranging from two (2) to about nine (9) percent. The effectiveness of ARISP II is shown by the improvement in the palay yield, and the decrease in the transport cost and travel time in the area. The level of efficiency of the ARISP II suggested that despite reduction in investment cost, more households were benefited due to additional number of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) constructed. The efficiency of ARISP II is also manifested through the implementation of a scheme adopted by the project wherein ARC residents were involved in the construction of the irrigation facilities which resulted to cheaper labor costs and also cheaper locally available construction materials.