

Peñalba, Linda M., Eva F. Escueta, and Blanquita R. Pantoja. Benchmark Survey of the Agrarian Reform Communities (Volume 1). Institute of Agrarian Studies (IASt), College of Economics and Management, University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna. 1996.

The study aimed to establish benchmark data on agrarian reform communities (ARCs) for determining appropriate development approaches and intervention strategies, and for future program impact assessment. The data for the study were gathered at two levels, community and household. Data at the community level were aggregated to come up with a community profile of the ARCs typologies while at the household level, a survey using a structured questionnaire was employed. The household-respondents were stratified into two (2) groups: the ARBs, and non-ARBs. The ARCs were stratified into priority and non-priority areas. The findings of the study show that the respondents are generally in their middle ages and that majority of them are either elementary graduates or undergraduates. The most popular asset found in the respondents' households is the transistor radio (65.78%). Infant/child mortality cases are slightly higher in ARBs households than in non-ARB households (6.68% vs. 6.04%). The viability of People's Organizations (POs), in certain instances, is low/threatened due to some management and organization problems. The study also shows that some ARBs are still share-tenants but are actually potential ARBs. Majority (54.51%) of the household-respondents are below the poverty threshold level. The ARB household-respondents derive a relatively higher average income than the non-ARB household-respondents because some of them have children who work abroad as overseas contract workers (OCWs). There are also cases of selling and mortgaging of awarded lands in the ARCs. The study also shows that most ARBs still plant rice and corn which command relatively low prices while only few ARBs plant high value crops. Majority (63.31%) of the respondents still practice the monocropping system. Generally, the respondents rely on traders as marketing outlet. Only eight percent (8%) of the respondents were able to seek assistance from NGOs due to the fact that only 30 of the 61 ARCs have NGO partners. The study also noted the loan repayment rate of the respondents at 32 percent. Notably, about one-fourth of the respondents have no idea at all about the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and approximately half have no idea at all about ARC.