

University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation, Inc. (UPLBFI). Community-Managed Agrarian Reform and Poverty Reduction Program (CMARPRP): Impact Assessment. Integrative Report. 2007.

The Community-Managed Agrarian Reform and Poverty Reduction Program (CMARPRP) implements a strategy for transferring lands to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB) based on voluntary farmer-landowner negotiations (i.e., VLT/DPS) and community-state partnership in the planning, provision and management of productive investments and critical support services. The project covers 10 pilot sites involving 1,000 hectares located in ten provinces with 17 barangays and involving 650 ARB-recipients and 68 landowners. The overall objectives of the assessment are: 1) to measure and analyze socio-economic and institutional changes that are attributable to the project; b) assess the extent to which land transfer process have been accelerated; and c) recommend refinements and strategies and approaches for assisting ARCs and ARBs through the CMARPRP model including the formulation of sustainability plans linked to project phase-out. The study used both quantitative and qualitative analysis to provide evidence on the extent to which project interventions lead to a sustained increase in productive capacity. The study shows that level of productivity among CMARPRP respondents was generally lower compared to the non-CMARPRP farmers in most of the major traditional crops such as rice, corn and coconut. This pattern in the level of productivity could be attributed to the fact that in the non-CMARPRP areas, most of the respondents were already ARBs long before the implementation of CMARPRP. Notably, the CMARPRP respondents have more farm investments compared to non-CMARPRP beneficiaries. In terms of total household income, the CMARPRP respondents have a higher average of about PhP81,850 while the non-CMARPRP respondents have an estimated value of PhP72,345. The poverty incidence among CMARPRP respondents was about 63 percent, while that of the non-CMARPRP respondents was 62 percent. This implies that the magnitude of poverty incidence was basically similar in both areas. The land transfer process under the VLT/DPS of CMARPRP was faster, the negotiated land values were lower, and the rate of amortization was higher. The amortization aspect of the process was generally less problematic because the land values were relatively cheaper. In general, both the household and community level assessments indicated some positive impacts. In particular, infrastructure and agriculture and enterprise development (AED) interventions resulted in considerable improvements in market access and economic opportunities. There are also indications that the interventions and the gains from the project can be maintained and sustained. However, there are issues that were identified and must be addressed, particularly in terms of the replicability of the CMARPRP approach in other areas.