

Bravo, Marideth R., Arturo Y. Pacificador, Jr., Blanquita R. Pantoja, Rolando T. Bello. Current State of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs): Its Implications to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) (ARB Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) System: Phase III. Institute of Agrarian and Rurban Development Studies (IARDS), University of the Philippines Los Baños, College, Laguna. February 14, 2000.

This research project is Phase III of the first project titled "Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System" which consists of two (2) phases. The Phase III project generally aimed to determine the current state of CARP beneficiaries at the national and regional levels and its implications to policy formulation, planning and implementation of the program. Essentially, the results of the Phase III project highlighted the performance of the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) using five (5) key performance indicators, namely: land tenure, compliance with obligations as ARBs, productivity, income and technology. The analysis is anchored on the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) System developed by the Institute of Agrarian Studies (IARDS) for the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The survey covered ARBs in 67 out of the 74 provinces covered by the CARP as of December 1996 with a total of 6,130 ARBs as respondents which constitute regional representative samples of all CARP beneficiaries as of May 1997. The following are the conclusions derived from the findings of the study: a) not all ARBs are actually tilling the lands acquired under the agrarian reform program as evidenced by some nine (9%) of non-tillers; b) owner-cultivators, amortizing owners and leaseholders hold most of the parcels of land cultivated by the ARB tillers; c) average household income of the ARB households are low and generally just enough to meet the minimum basic needs of the household members thus, poverty incidence remains high at about 63 percent, even higher than the national rural poverty incidence; d) the farms of the ARBs are relatively small (a little more than 2 hectares) and mostly rainfed (in lowland and upland areas); e) productivity levels of the ARBs are at par with national level for rice, corn and coconut; f) higher proportion of ARBs were able to avail of support services and credit assistance, particularly from Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Peoples Organizations (POs). A comparative analysis of the performance of ARBs in ARCs and all ARBs in terms of productivity and income showed not much difference.