

DAR-Policy and Strategic Research Service. An Assessment of the Socio-Economic Condition of Actual and Potential ARBs Affected by Land Use Conversion. Diliman, Quezon City. December 1999.

The study aimed to evaluate how land use conversion has affected the socio-economic conditions of actual and potential ARBs in selected areas. A national sample of 44 approved agricultural land use conversion applications were randomly drawn from regions and provinces classified either as critical and non-critical areas based on the extent of the area covered by approved agricultural land use conversion. Of the 294 sample ARBs interviewed, 129 or 43.9 percent are actual ARBs and 165 or 56.1 percent are potential ARBs. The findings confirmed the results of previous studies that land use conversion at the national level has not contributed to a significant decrease in CARP coverage and threatened national food security. Only specific areas within the country are affected by land use conversion. It was found out that some are more affected than others depending on the vulnerability of the area due to industrialization and population demand for residential areas. The results of the study indicates that only 25 percent of all ARB respondents claim ARBs' improved socio-economic conditions and have the chance to engage in income-generating activities. Actual and potential ARB respondents in critical areas are relatively better-off than those affected respondents in non-critical areas as indicated by their gross household income which is above the 1997 National Poverty Threshold (NPT) of PhP56,940. The ARBs in critical areas derive higher income from non-farm and off-farm sources compared to ARBs in non-critical areas whose main source of income is farming. A large majority of the ARB respondents in both critical and non-critical areas are against land use conversion because it deprived them of their main source of livelihood and brings about food shortage, among others.