

B. BASELINE STUDIES

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The baseline study for the Agrarian Reform Communities Project II (ARCP II) was conducted to 1) assess the present conditions and situations in the ARC sites and ARC clusters covered by ARCP 2 and the 36 control ARCs; and 2) generate baseline information taking into consideration the project's logical framework and key performance indicators. The implementation of ARCP 2 aimed at reducing poverty and improving the socio-economic status of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and other segments of the rural poor in agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and ARC clusters across 18 provinces in six (6) regions of the country. The study was conducted at the household and community levels. The household level used the "before and after" analysis and the "with and without" intervention analysis. The study established the state of development at the community level as well as the profile of the existing people's organizations (POs) in the ARCs. The study shows that overall the poverty incidence in the baseline study sites is very high considering that the poverty incidence at the national level is only about 20.9 in 2009. Among ARBs, the incidence is about 51 percent, which is considerably lower than the incidence among non-ARBs, estimated at 62 percent. Across types of ARC, poverty incidence is similar. In both ARCP 2 and non-ARCP 2 areas, the incidence of poverty among ARBs was 50 percent while for non-ARBs, the estimate was 61 percent. Similarly, the proportion of poor ARB households in non-ARCP 2 areas was 54 percent and 67 percent for non-ARBs. The computed poverty incidences for both ARCP 2 (57%) and non-ARCP 2 (64%) areas and for both ARBs (51%) and non-ARBs (62%) are twice more than the national poverty estimate. The study also indicates the need to improve access to basic production and post-harvest facilities and that the POs in ARCP 2 areas are in a better position than the POs on non-ARCP 2 areas in several aspects. At the community level, both ARCP 2 and non-ARCP 2 barangays are heavily dependent on agriculture with crop farming and livestock raising as the main sources of income and livelihood. Compared to ARCP 2 target areas, non-ARCP 2 barangays have lesser access to key infrastructure facilities such as irrigation, drying, milling, and storage facilities. However, non-ARCP 2 barangays have better access to social infrastructure such as health centers, barangay halls and multipurpose centers.