

4.7 Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development (MinSSAD)

Woodfields Consultants, Inc. Initial Impact Assessment (IIA) Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development (MinSSAD) Project, Volume I, Main Report. Department of Agrarian Reform and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). August 2008.

The assessment study aimed to determine the initial impact or outcome of the Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development (MinSSAD) project. The MinSSAD project is an integrated area development initiative funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). It covers 123 barangays in 16 municipalities of six provinces in eight (8) resettlement sites in three (3) regions in Mindanao. The objectives of the impact assessment study were: 1) to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the project's interventions in attaining the goals and objectives; 2) to review the effectiveness of integrated approach in the sustainable development of agrarian reform sites; and 3) to provide lessons in designing similar integrated area development agrarian reform projects. The methodology used in the study was a combination of household survey (HHS), reconnaissance survey (RS), key informant interview (KII) and key informant panel (KIP) workshops, consensus building conference (CBC) and secondary data analysis (SDA). The findings of the study indicate the effectiveness and efficiency of MinSSAD interventions. The MinSSAD's interventions on rural infrastructure, agriculture and environment caused the improvement in the mobility and accessibility of the settlement communities and the enhancement of their farm productivity. In terms of efficiency, the actual development cost per household was reduced by 49 percent, i.e., from PhP506,507 per household to only PhP258,659 per household. As regards the impact of the project, the project interventions had caused for a 10 percent increase in the household income of the project beneficiaries, i.e. in real terms. These interventions also contributed to the reduction of poverty incidence in all MINSSAD areas by 24 percent, from 60.20 percent in 2003 to only 36.29 percent in 2007. Among the important lessons learned are: adequate baseline data in the design of a project; formulation of realistic target indicators; communication of project framework to project stakeholders at the implementation level; development interventions should be as focused as a "rifle shot" than a "shotgun blast"; adoption of area-based innovations and creativity; agricultural activities of the project are able to graduate from subsistence to commercial level; and crop diversification of a few crops which have comparative advantage.