

#### **4.8 Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP)**

##### **Sustainable Development Solutions. Impact Assessment of the Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). Department of Agrarian Reform–Asian Development Bank (DAR-ADB). April 2008.**

The Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) is a 6-year development project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that supports the various programs of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in alleviating poverty in the Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs). It has four (4) main components, namely: 1) Rural Infrastructure; 2) Development Support; 3) Land Survey and Titling; and 4) Project Management and Capability Building. Generally, the Impact Assessment (IA) of the ARCP was undertaken to determine the project's contribution to rural development and poverty reduction (i.e., the welfare outcomes). The IA survey of ARB and/or non-ARB households was undertaken in 71 ARCs in 22 provinces in the 11 regions of the country where 103 sub-projects had been completed or closed as of February 2007. It used a "before" and "after" ARCP scenario analysis, and a counterfactual or control group of 849 non-ARCP beneficiary ARB/non-ARB households to permit a "with" and "without" project scenario analysis. Case studies were also conducted in selected ARCs within the same survey period. The study concludes that the ARCP participating ARB and non-ARB households have improved in a number of key performance indicators mentioned in the project's logical framework. The survey households' perceptions of their present and improved quality of life compared to pre-ARCP situation have shown the following: increased income from both farming and non-farming activities; higher level of expenditures on health and education; better-quality assets; greater access to socio-economic services; enhanced mobility; improved health conditions; and heightened involvement in community affairs. However, there are major challenges which should be considered by the implementers if gains from the project are to be sustained.