

4.11 Support to Agrarian Reform through CARP and the Development of Indigenous Communities (SARDIC) Programme

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The DAR-United Nations Development Programme Support to Asset Reform through CARP and the Development of Indigenous Communities (DAR-UNDP SARDIC) focuses on the provision of social infrastructure and capacity-building support to DAR, the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and the existing cooperatives in Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs). The Assessment of the DAR-UNDP SARDIC sought to determine the impact of the Programme interventions in terms of institutional building for sustainable agriculture and organizational and entrepreneurial skills development on the socio-economic status of ARBs in selected ARCs. Primary and secondary data gathering were employed in the conduct of the study. Both descriptive and inferential statistical analysis were also employed. The results of the study show that the recipients of the SARDIC interventions were generally better-off than the non-recipients. Based on income, asset value, and type of house and facilities utilized, recipients enjoyed a better life situation compared to the non-recipients. Relative to the institutional impact of the Programme, the training conducted under the SARDIC enhanced the skills of DARPO staff particularly on sustainable agriculture (SA) technology, planning and market matching. On the LGUs, the Programme provided Municipal Agricultural Officers (MAOs) and Agricultural Technicians (ATs) the opportunity to upgrade their technical skills. The SARDIC's sponsored training programs/seminars enabled them to interact and learn from the experiences of their peers assigned in other areas. Moreover, the SARDIC Programme has contributed to the strengthening of the cooperatives through the various training programs provided to the People's Organization (PO). However, despite the positive findings of the study, there is a need to address some issues and concerns in order to sustain the gains that have been achieved with the implementation of SARDIC and other development activities by other assisting organizations. These issues include: the PO's dependence on external support, attitudinal problems on the part of the PO officers and members, choice of target PO, sustainability of the agribusiness and livelihood enterprises, and limited number of officers and members trained.