

Land Reform, Rural Development, and Poverty in the Philippines: Revisiting the Agenda
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This study provides analytical support of the Philippines' thrust to improve the welfare of the rural poor through the extension of the CARP. To that end, it examines the current articulation and structure of the agrarian reform program in the Philippines and its consistency with respect to the broader rural development agenda currently pursued by the government and the challenges and constraints presently faced by the Philippine society more generally. The ultimate goal is to derive a set of policy implications and elaborate possible solutions aimed at making the agrarian reform program's implementation swifter, improving its sustainability, strengthening its consistency with respect to the broader goals of rural development and poverty reduction, and enhancing its feasibility given the fiscal bind, political, and institutional constraints and even geo-physical conditions.

Given these general objectives, the specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Determine the direct and indirect effects of the CARP on the viability of the small farm sector specifically the interaction between farm productivity, investment climate and rural land markets;
2. Assess the ARC strategy of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as a pro-poor rural development strategy, and recommend areas for improvement or suggest an alternative path to making it more consistent with a pro-poor rural development strategy;
3. Examine the challenges and prospects of land distribution of CARP within the extension period and determine the implications of the government's bio-fuels policy on the distribution of sugarcane lands; and
4. Determine the implications of deregulating or activating land markets in sustaining the gains of the CARP and in improving productivity and equity in the agrarian sector.

(For the full paper, please contact publications@appc-ph.com)