

Rural Development in Philippines



On the momentous occasion of World Rural Development Day 2025, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of the Philippines reaffirms its unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable development in our rural heartlands. As the primary government agency mandated to implement agrarian reform, the DAR has been at the forefront of transformative programs aimed at empowering landless farmers and enhancing the productivity and resilience of agrarian communities.

The Department's initiatives, including the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and its extensions, have placed land ownership in the hands of millions of Filipino farmers, providing them with the foundation for economic self-sufficiency and social equity. As a national government agency that reaches up to the municipal level - with a Central Office and Regional, Provincial, and Municipal Offices - this setup helps the DAR run its programs efficiently and address the unique issues in rural areas more effectively.

Beyond land distribution, the DAR actively implements vital support services encompassing:

- **Provision of crucial infrastructure:** Construction and rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems, and post-harvest facilities to improve market access and reduce losses.



- **Capacity building and training:** Equipping agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) with modern farming techniques, entrepreneurship skills, and financial literacy to enhance their productivity and income-generating opportunities.

- **Agrarian Justice Delivery:** Ensuring equitable resolution of agrarian-related disputes and protecting the rights of ARBs.

- **Sustainable Livelihood Development:** Facilitating access to credit, market linkages, and value-adding activities to diversify income sources and build resilient livelihoods.

The DAR, in collaboration with other government agencies, also implements the Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP) Program. It aims to mitigate hunger, ensure nutrition and food security, and reduce poverty in rural and urban communities by providing access and availability of various local nutritious products for government and private institutions by engaging agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) to supply their needed requirements.

In return, the ARBOs, through DAR's support, directly supply fresh agricultural produce to various government institutions like schools, hospitals, and even jails. This

initiative provides a stable market for ARBs' products, ensures income stability, and contributes significantly to the national food supply. It also strengthens the ARBOs' entrepreneurial capabilities and their role in local food systems.

The impact of these programs is evident in the increased agricultural productivity, improved household incomes, and enhanced social well-being witnessed in our agrarian reform communities across the Philippines. We have seen



a rise in vibrant rural enterprises, greater participation of ARBs in local governance, and a renewed sense of dignity and hope within these communities.

Through land distribution, comprehensive support services, and strategic partnerships with other government agencies and international organizations, DAR is actively building a future where our agrarian reform beneficiaries are not just land owners but also successful entrepreneurs, food producers, and vital contributors to the national economy. The toil of our farmers fuels our progress, ensuring food security, economic resilience, and a vibrant rural landscape for all.

As we celebrate World Rural Development Day, the DAR remains steadfast in its mission to build prosperous and empowered agrarian communities. We

recognize that rural development is a continuous journey that requires collaborative efforts among government agencies, local communities, civil society organizations, and our international partners.

We at DAR, headed by Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III, are proud to share our experiences and successes with fellow member countries and stakeholders, and we look forward to continued collaboration towards a more equitable and sustainable future for all rural populations.

The journey towards Bagong Pilipinas, as championed by no less than our President, His Excellency Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr., is a collective one - anchored in the sweat and determination of our farmers and the unwavering support of the government. Together, as a nation, are cultivating a society rooted in equity, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

Mabuhay ang mga magsasaka! Mabuhay ang repormang agraryo! Mabuhay ang Bagong Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang CIRDAP!



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