JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

THE STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES [ARCs] IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

FINAL REPORT

JANUARY 2001

SANYU CONSULTANTS INC. I. C. NET LIMITED

PREFACE

In response to the request from the Government of the Republic of Philippines, the Government of Japan decided to conduct the Study on the Development of Agrarian Reform Community (ARCs) in the Province of Isabela in the Republic of the Philippines and entrusted the study to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

JICA sent to Philippines the study team headed by Mr. Masahiro Iida, Sanyu Consultants Inc., three times between September 1999 to November 2000.

The team held discussions with the officials concerned of the Government of Philippines, and conducted field surveys at the study area. After the team returned to Japan, further studies were made and the present report was prepared.

I hope that this report will contribute to the promotion of the project and to the enhancement of friendly relations between our two countries.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the officials concerned of the Government of the Philippines for their close cooperation extended to the Team.

January 2001

Kunihiko Saito President Japan International Cooperation Agency

Mr. Kunihiko Saito President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tokyo, Japan

January 2001

Letter of Transmittal

Dear Sir,

We are pleased to submit herewith the study report of the Study on Development of Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) in the Province of Isabela in the Republic of the Philippines.

The report, which describes the proposed plan for the ARCs development, is compiled in reflecting the advice and suggestions for the formulation of the above mentioned project by the authorities concerned of the Government of Japan and your Agencies. Also comments made by the related agencies of the Government of the Philippines are incorporated in the report.

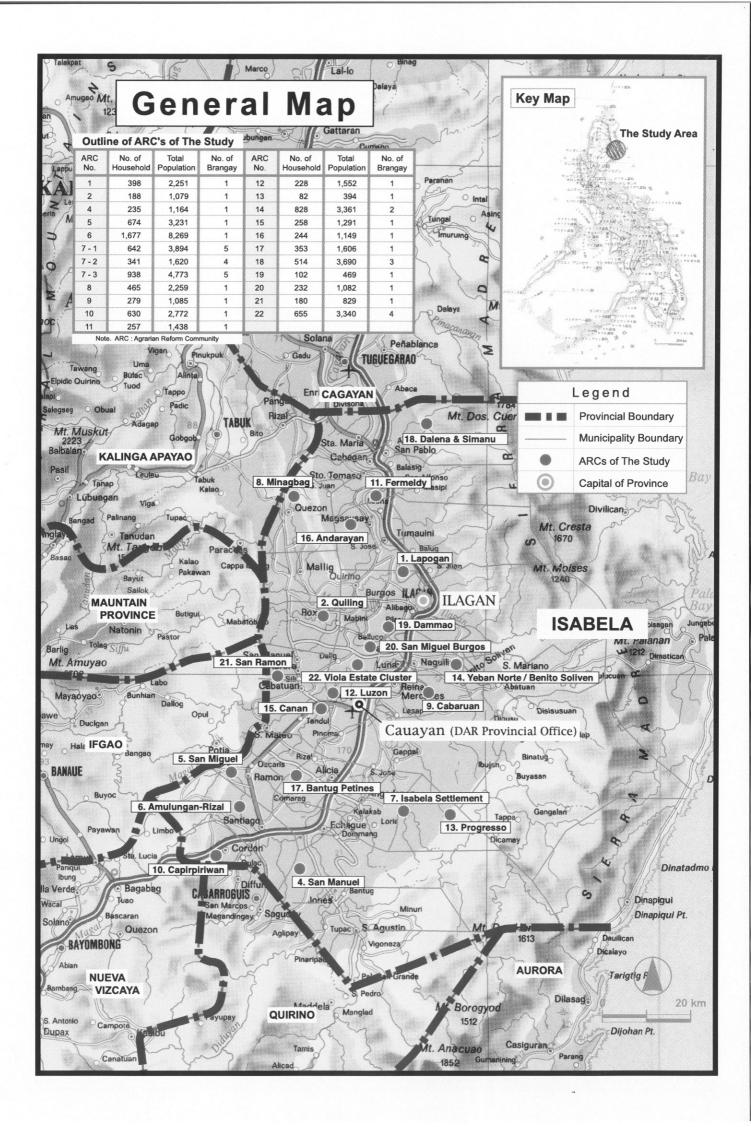
The study had been carried out in the phasing manners, Phase-1 and Phase-2 followed by the explanation of the report in the Philippines. During the Phase-1 study period, the Master Plan study including selection of the model ARCs was conducted. In the Phase-2 study period, the selection of the model ARCs was approved through the discussion with the Philippines government personnel and the Feasibility Study was carried out in the model ARC areas.

As the result of the study, the development plan consisting of a) strengthening plan of farmer's organization by themselves, b) capability building of farmers, local government staff, etc., c) agriculture development plan including extension works, d) rehabilitation and construction plan of small scale agricultural and rural infrastructures such as roads and irrigation facilities, e) rehabilitation and construction of post harvest facilities, f) livelihood plan aiming to improve the farm household economy, and g) rural credit plan was proposed. Through the implementation of the above-mentioned plan, it will surely be believed that the plan will greatly contribute to the improvement of socio-economic conditions and sustainable ARC development in the study area.

Finally, we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Department of Agrarian Reform and agencies concerned of the Government of the Philippines, Ministry of Foreign Affaire, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of Japan, and Japan International Cooperation Agency, especially to Advisory Committee which gave useful advice to the study team from time to time so as to smoothen the study.

Respectfully yours,

Masahiro Iida Team Leader of the Study Team





Data Collection of the present conditions of the objective ARC throughout the Interview to farmer's beneficialies. The representatives of villagers attended this meeting.



Scene of the RRA survey at the objective ARC. The farmers are drawing the present cropping pattern at the ARC.



Scene of the FSD workshop at the objective ARC. The workshop was continuously carried out for 5 days. During the participatory workshop, the farmer-participants discussed problems and solutions to problems.



Scene of Open Hearing with beneficiaries at the Barangay level during the field work activities. The counterpart staff explained and discussed the contents of the proposed ARC Development Plan to the beneficiaries.



Meeting/discussion on the re-building of the MPCI. The re-building method was discussed with the members of the MPCI under the Study Team consultation. The final decision on the MPCI re-building was carried out by the members themselves.



Interview of farm household on their capacity or participation in the implementation, operation and maintenance of proposed facilities, such as the roads, post harvest facilities, etc.