

## Agrarian Reform FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

### I. Pre-colonial Era

- *What was the type of land ownership during the pre-Spanish time?*

Land was commonly owned by the community known as barangay. This is a small unit of government consisting of 30-100 families administered by the chiefs.

Everyone in the barangay regardless of status had access to the land and mutually shares resources and the fruits of their labor. They believed in and practiced the concept of “stewardship” where the relationship between man and nature is important.

- *What was the system of land cultivation during this time?*  
Land cultivation was done commonly by *kaingin* system or the slash and burn method wherein land was cleared by burning the bushes before planting the crops or either land was plowed and harrowed before planting.
- *What was the economic system during this period?*  
Food production was intended for family consumption only. Later, neighboring communities were engaged in a barter trade, exchanging their goods with others. Some even traded their agricultural products with luxury items of some foreign traders like Chinese, Arabs, and Europeans.
- *Was leasing and selling of lands exercised during this period?*  
The Maragtas Code seems to be the only recorded transaction of land sale during this time. This tells us about the selling of the Panay Island by the natives to the ten Bornean *datus* in exchange for a golden *salakot* and a long gold necklace.

Although the Code of Luwaran was one of the oldest written laws of the Muslim society which contains

provision on the lease of cultivated lands, there was no record how this lease arrangement was practiced.

### II. Spanish Era

- *What was the system of land cultivation at this period?*  
The colonial government at this period introduced a *pueblo* agriculture, a system wherein native rural communities were organized into *pueblo* and each Christianized native family is given a four (4) to five (5) hectares of land to cultivate. The *pueblo* agriculture practiced no share cropper class or landless class.
- *Were the native families allowed to own a land?*  
No.  
  
The native families were merely landholders and not landowners. By law, the land assigned to them was the property of the Spanish King where they pay their colonial tributes to the Spanish authorities in the form of agricultural products they produced.
- *How did agricultural tenancy originate?*  
Through the Laws of the Indies, the Spanish crown awarded vast tracts of land to wit:
  - Friar lands for the religious orders;
  - *Repartimientos* for lands granted to the Spanish military as a reward for their service; and
  - *Encomienda* - large tracts of land given to Spaniards (*encomendero*) to manage and have the right to receive tributes from the natives tilling it. Natives within these areas became mere tillers working for a share of crops. They did not even have any rights to the land.
- *How did the hacienda system evolve?*  
At the beginning of the 19th century, the Philippines as a colony of Spain implemented policies that would

mainstream the country into the world of capitalism. The economy was opened to the world market as an exporter of raw materials and importer of finished goods. The agricultural exports were mandated and *hacienda* system was developed as a new form of ownership. More people lost their lands and were forced to become tillers.

- *What were some of the problems encountered in the encomienda system?*  
Abusive *encomienderos* collected more tributes that became the land rentals from the natives living in the area. A *compras y vendas* system was practiced wherein tillers were made to compulsorily sell at a very low price or surrender their agricultural harvests to Spanish authorities where *encomienderos* can resell it for a profit. People of the *encomiendas* were also required to render personal services on public and religious work and as a household help to the *encomienderos*.
- *Why was the ownership of land limited to only a few families?*  
The Spanish crown made a law in 1865 ordering landholders to register their landholdings. Only those who were aware of these decrees benefited. Ancestral lands were claimed and registered in other people's names (Spanish officials, *inquilinos*, and *caciques* or local chieftains). As a result, many peasant families were driven out from the lands they have been cultivating for centuries or were forced to become tillers.
- *What laws required the registration of properties/agricultural lands?*
  - The Ley Hipotecaria or the Mortgage Law of 1893 provided the systematic registration of titles and deeds as well as ownership claims. This law was mainly a law on registration of properties rather than a mortgage law.
  - The Maura Law or Royal Decree of 1894 was the last Spanish Land Law promulgated in the

Philippines. Farmers and landholders were given one year to register their agricultural lands to avoid a declaration of it as a state property.

- *What were some of the revolutionary highlights that occurred during this period?*  
As more tillers were abused, exploited and deprived of their rights, the revolution of peasants and farmers in 1896 articulated their aspirations for agrarian reform and for a just society. Women also fought for freedom and played an important role in the planning and implementing the activities of the revolutionary movements.
- *Did the revolt address the problem of land ownership?*  
Yes.

The revolutionary government confiscated the large landed estates, especially the friar lands and declared these as properties of the government. (**Malolos Constitution, 1896, Article XVII**).

### III. American Era

- *What initiated the Americans to focus on land reform?*  
Realizing that being landless was the main cause of social unrest and revolt at that time, the Americans sought to put an end to the miserable conditions of the tenant tillers and small farmers by passing several land policies to widen the base of small landholdings and distribute land ownership among the greater number of Filipino tenants and farmers.
- *What was Philippine Bill of 1902?*  
This law provided regulations on the disposal of public lands wherein a private individual can own 16 hectares of land while the corporate land holdings can avail of 1, 024 hectares. This also gave the rights to the Americans to own agricultural lands.

- *Why was the Torrens system of land registration introduced?*  
Some 400,000 native farmers were without titles at the start of the American era, this situation was also aggravated by the absence of records of issued titles and accurate land surveys. To remedy the situation, the Torrens system was then introduced to replace the registration system implemented by the Spaniards.
- *What governed the implementation of the said system?*  
The Land Registration Act of 1902 or Act. No. 496 placed all private and public lands under Torrens system. The Cadastral Act or Act. No. 2259 speeds up the issuance of Torrens titles. This was done by surveying a municipality and presented the result to the land registration court.
- *What was the Homestead Program of 1903?*  
This program allowed an enterprising tenant to acquire a farm of at least 16 hectares to cultivate. However, the program was not implemented nationwide and was introduced only in some parts of Mindanao and Northern Luzon, where there were available public alienable and disposable lands.
- *Were there other agrarian laws introduced by the Americans aside from the Torrens system?*
  - The First Public Land Act or Act No. 926 provided rules and regulations for selling and leasing portions of the public domain, completing defective Spanish land titles, and canceling and confirming Spanish concessions.
  - The Second Public Land Act of 1919 or Act 2874 limits the use of agricultural lands to Filipinos, Americans and citizens of other countries.
  - Act. No. 141 amended the Second Public Act of 1919 or Act No. 2874. A temporary provision of equality on the rights of American and Filipino citizens and

corporations. It also compiled all pre-existing laws relative to public lands into a single instrument.

- The Friar Land Act or Act. No. 1120 provided the administrative and temporary leasing and selling of friar
- lands to its tillers.
- The Rice Share Tenancy Act of 1933 or Act. No. 4054, first legislation regulating the relationships of landlord and tenants and the first law to legalize a 50-50 crop sharing arrangement.
- The Sugarcane Tenancy Contracts Act of 1933 or Act No. 4113 regulated the relationship of landlord and tenants in the sugarcane fields and required tenancy contracts on land planted to sugarcane.

- *Did these land policies help the farmer's situation?*  
No.

It further worsened the land ownership situation, wherein there was no limit on the size of landholdings one could possess. Landholdings were once again concentrated in the hands of fewer individuals who can afford to buy, register, and acquire fixed titles of their properties. Hence, more lands were placed under tenancy.

- *How did the peasant groups react to this situation?*  
There were widespread peasant uprisings, headed by the armed peasants' groups known as *Colorum* and *Sakdalista* of Luzon and Northeastern Mindanao respectively. These uprisings resulted in social disorder in 1920's and 1930's. Hence, more militant peasants and workers' organizations bonded together for a more collective action against the abuses of landlords and unjust landownership situation. This gave birth to the *Communist Party of the Philippines*.

#### IV. Commonwealth Era

- *What were the tenancy and land ownership situation during this period?*
  - Contrasting economic and political lifestyle between tenant and the landlord became very common. Landlords became richer and powerful while the tenants were deprived of their rights and became poorer.
  - Absentee landowners increased. They preferred to go after new opportunities in the cities and left their farms idle or to the management of “*katiwalas*”. As a result, haciendas were poorly and unjustly managed.
  - A small plot of land cultivated by an average peasant farmer could not sustain a decent living for the family.
  - Tenants and farmers shouldered excessive fines, unfair taxation, and usury.
  - Systems for credit and marketing of rice were lacking thus, farmers received a very low selling price.
  - Peasant uprising became widespread all over the country.
- *What was the government’s initial response to these challenges?*  
The government under the stewardship of President Quezon realized that land reform programs should be implemented immediately. They saw the purchase of friar lands as a possible way to solve the problem of inequitable land ownership. They also saw that the Homestead program could be transformed into a massive resettlement program, if properly implemented.

#### V. Japanese Era

- *What were some of the significant events related to agrarian reform during the Japanese era?*  
During this occupation, peasants and workers organized

the **HUKBALAHAP** (*Hukbong Bayan Laban sa mga Hapon*) on March 29, 1942 as an anti-Japanese group. They took over vast tracts of land and gave the land and harvest to the people.

For them, the war was a golden opportunity for people’s initiative to push pro-poor programs. Landlords were overpowered by the peasants but unfortunately at the end of the war, through the help of the military police and civilian guards, landlords were able to retrieve their lands from the HUKBALAHAP.

#### VI. Government Initiatives on Agrarian Reform

- **Manuel L. Quezon (1935-1944)**
  - Republic Act (RA) 4054 or the Rice Tenancy Law was the first law on crop sharing which legalized the 50-50 share between landlord and tenant with corresponding support to tenants protecting them against abuses of landlords. However, this law was hardly implemented because most of the municipal councils were composed of powerful *hacenderos* and big landlords. In fact, only one municipality passed a resolution for its enforcement and majorities have petitioned its application to the Governor General.
  - *The 1935 Constitution*, provided specific provisions on social justice and expropriation of landed estates for distribution to tenants as a solution to the land ownership and tenancy problems.
  - Commonwealth Act No. 461 specified that dismissal of a tenant should first have the approval of Tenancy Division of the Department of Justice.
  - Commonwealth Act No. 608 was enacted to establish security of tenure between landlord and tenant. It prohibited the common practice among

landowners of ejecting tenants without clear legal grounds.

*What was his program on land reform?*

President Quezon laid down a social justice program focused on the purchased of large haciendas which were divided and sold to tenants. This administration was responsible for establishing the *National Rice and Corn Corporation (NARICC)* and assigning public defenders to assist peasants in court battles for their rights to till the land. During this period, the *Court of Industrial Relations (CIR)*, was set up to exercise jurisdiction over disagreements arising from agri-workers and landowner relationship. It was also during this time that the Rice Tenancy Act (Act No. 4054) was amended.

The Homestead Program continued through the creation of the National Land Settlement Administration (CA No. 441) and tenancy problems were covered through CA Nos. 461 and 608.

*What hindered the implementation of land reform under his administration?*

Budget allocation for the settlement program made it impossible for the program to succeed. Also, most landlords did not comply with the Rice Share Tenancy Act. Widespread peasant uprising against abusive landlords continued. In addition, the outbreak of the World War II put a stop to the landownership and tenancy interventions during this period.

- **Manuel Roxas (1946-1948)**

*What were the interventions made by this administration related to land reform?*

Republic Act No. 34 was enacted to establish a 70-30 sharing arrangement between tenant and landlord. The 70% of the harvest will go to the person who shouldered the expenses for planting, harvesting and for the work animals.

It also reduced the interest of landowners' loans to tenants at not more than 6%.

President Roxas also negotiated for the purchase of 8,000 hectares of lands in Batangas owned by the Ayala-Zobel family. These were sold to landless farmers. However, due to lack of support facilities, these farmers were forced to resell their lands to the landowning class. This failure gave basis to doubt the real meaning of land reform program.

- **Elpidio Quirino (1948-1953)**

*What was the major program of the Quirino administration regarding agrarian reform?*

Through Executive Order (EO) No. 355, the Land Settlement Development Corporation (LASEDECO) was established to accelerate and expand the peasant resettlement program of the government. However, due to limited post-war resources, the program was not successful.

- **Ramon Magsaysay (1953-1957)**

*Did President Magsaysay pursue land reform during his term?*

Yes, President Magsaysay realized the importance of pursuing a more honest-to-goodness land reform program. He convinced the elite controlled congress to pass several legislation to improve the land reform situation, to wit:

- R.A. No. 1199 (1954): Agricultural Tenancy Act basically governed the relationship between landholders and tenant-farmers. This law helped protect the tenurial rights of tenant tillers and enforced fair tenancy practices;
- R.A. No. 1160 (1954): Free distribution of Resettlement and Rehabilitation and Agricultural land and an Act establishing the National



Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA);

- R.A. No. 1400 (1955) - *Land Reform Act* or known as “*Land to the Landless*” Program, which sought improvement in land tenure and guaranteed the expropriation of all tenanted landed estates; and
- R.A. No. 1266 (1955) - Expropriation of *Hacienda del Rosario*, situated at Valdefuente, Cabanatuan City.

*How did he implement the Agricultural Tenancy Act?*

He established the *Court of Agricultural Relations* in 1955 to improve tenancy security, fix the land rentals on tenanted farms and to resolve the many land disputes filed by the landowners and peasant organizations.

He also created the *Agricultural Tenancy Commission* to administer problems arising from tenancy. Through this Commission, 28,000 hectares were issued to settlers.

*What were this administration’s key support programs on AR?*

Under this administration, the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) was created. This is a government agency formed to provide warehouse facilities and assist farmers to market their products and established the organization of the Farmers Cooperatives and Marketing Associations (FACOMAs).

With the passing of RA 1160 of 1954, President Magsaysay pursued the resettlement program through the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA). This law established the government’s resettlement program and accelerated the free distribution of agricultural lands to landless tenants and farmers. It particularly aimed to convince members of the HUKBALAHAP movement to return to a peaceful life by giving them home lots and farmlands.

This administration spearheaded the establishment of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank to provide easier terms in applying for homestead and other farmland.

*Did these interventions improve the land ownership and tenancy situation?*

Out of the targeted 300 *haciendas* for distribution, only 41 were distributed after its 7 years of implementation. This was due to lack of funds and inadequate support services provided for these programs.

Landlords continued to be uncooperative and critical to the program, and landownership and tenancy problems continued.

#### • **Carlos P. Garcia (1957-1961)**

*Was there legislation on land reform under this administration?*

There was no legislation passed in his term but he continued to implement the land reform programs of President Magsaysay.

#### • **Diosdado Macapagal (1961-1965)**

*Why President Diosdado Macapagal was considered the “Father of Agrarian Reform”?*

It was during his term that the Agricultural Land Reform Code or RA No. 3844 was enacted on August 8, 1963. This was considered to be the most comprehensive piece of agrarian reform legislation ever enacted in the country that time.

*Why was RA No. 3844 considered the most comprehensive piece of legislation ever enacted in the Philippines?*

- This Act abolished share tenancy in the Philippines. It prescribed a program converting the tenant farmers to lessees and eventually into owner-cultivators;

- It aimed to free tenants from the bondage of tenancy and gave hope to poor Filipino farmers to own the land they are tilling; and
- It emphasized owner-cultivatorship and farmer independence, equity, productivity improvement and the public distribution of land.

*What happened to the implementation of this Act?*

The landed Congress did not provide effort to come up with a separate bill to provide funding for its implementation.

However, this act was piloted in the provinces of Pangasinan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Occidental Mindoro, Camarines Sur and Misamis Oriental. It acquired a total of 18,247.06 hectares or 99.29% out of the total scope of 18,377.05 hectares. The program benefited 7,466 Farmer Beneficiaries.

- **Ferdinand Marcos (1965-1986)**

*What was the heart of President Marcos' Agrarian Reform Program?*

Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27 became the heart of the Marcos reform. It provided for tenanted lands devoted to rice and corn to pass ownership to the tenants and lowered the ceilings for landholdings to 7 hectares. The law stipulated that share tenants who worked from a landholding of over 7 hectares could purchase the land they tilled, while share tenants on land less than 7 hectares would become leaseholders.

*How did this Agrarian Reform Program help the farmers?*

This agrarian reform program was designed to uplift the farmers from poverty and ignorance and to make them useful, dignified, responsible and progressive partners in nation-building. This AR program was a package of services extended to farmers in the form of credit support, infrastructure, farm extension, legal assistance, electrification and development of rural institutions.

*What were the five major components of President Marcos' Agrarian Reform Program?*

- Land Tenure Program
- Institutional Development
- Physical Development
- Agricultural Development ; and
- Human Resources

*Why President Marcos' agrarian reform program was labeled as "revolutionary" by some sectors??*

It was considered revolutionary for two reasons:

1. It was pursued under Martial Law and intended to make quick changes without going through legislative or technical processes; and
2. It was the only law in the Philippines ever done in handwriting.

*What were some of the limitations of his agrarian reform program?*

- Scope of program was limited only to tenanted, privately-owned rice and corn lands;
- Monopoly of businessmen in the coconut and sugar industries;
- Foreign and local firms were allowed to use large tracks of land for their business;
- Declaration of Martial Law leading to the arrest of several farmer leaders without due process of law due to the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus.

- **Corazon C. Aquino (1986-1992)**

*What are the AR legislations and issuances passed under this administration?*

Proclamation 131, instituted the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) as a major program of the

government. It provided for a special fund known as the Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) in the amount of 50 Billion pesos to cover the estimated cost of the program for the period 1987-1997;

EO 129-A reorganized the Department of Agrarian Reform and expanded in power and operations;

EO 228 declared full ownership of the land to qualified farmer-beneficiaries covered by PD 27. It also regulated (fixed) the value of remaining rice and corn lands for coverage provided for the manner of payment by the farmer beneficiaries and the mode of compensation (a form of payment) to the landowners.

EO 229 provided the administrative processes for land registration or *LISTASAKA* program, acquisition of private land and compensation procedures for landowners. It specified the structure and functions of units that will coordinate and supervise the implementation of the program.

RA 6657 or Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), an act instituting a comprehensive agrarian reform program to promote social justice and Industrialization, providing the mechanism for its implementation and for other purposes.

*Were there measures to speed up CARP implementation?*

To strengthen CARP and fast-track its implementation, President Aquino issued the following Executive Orders:

- E.O. No. 405 gave the Land Bank of the Philippines the primary responsibility for the land valuation function in order for DAR to concentrate its efforts on the identification of landholdings and beneficiaries, the distribution of acquired lands, and the other sub-components of the program;

- E.O. No. 406 emphasized that CARP is central to the government's efforts to hasten countryside agro-industrial development and directed the implementing agencies to align their respective programs and projects with CARP. This created CARP implementing teams from the national to the municipal levels and gave priority to 24 strategic operating provinces where the bulk of CARP workload lies;
- E.O. No. 407 directed all government financing institutions (GFIs) and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to immediately transfer to DAR all their landholdings suitable for agriculture;
- E.O. No. 448 pursued the policy that government should lead efforts in placing lands for coverage under CARP. It directed the immediate turn-over of government reservations, no longer needed, that are suitable for agriculture.

*What were the other accomplishments of the Aquino administration in the implementation of the agrarian reform program?*

Grants and budgetary support from official development assistance (ODA) circles poured in during this administration. Various sectors, likewise, recognized agrarian reform as a worthwhile social investment. In terms of the tenant-tiller status, this improved particularly those within landowners' retained areas or on landholdings subject for coverage.

It's during this administration that the present adjudication system was introduced. This gave DAR, the original and exclusive jurisdiction over agrarian disputes as quasi-judicial powers. Also, livelihood and agro-industrial projects promoted and program of support services were intensified to help farmer beneficiaries become productive and transform them into entrepreneurs. This



administration received much support and active involvement in program implementation from key stakeholders such as people's organization, farmer's association, NGOs and from prominent landowners themselves.

*What were some of the challenges faced by the administration in the implementation of CARP?*

Various challenges faced this administration in the implementation of CARP. An example is on land valuation. One very specific case is the Garchitorena land scam. There were also issues in the absence of a clear cut guideline that would answer problems on land use conversion. Minimal efforts were exerted to discouraged and/or prevent the conversion of lands into other use.

Despite the Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF), this administration experienced a major budgetary shortfall due to low remittances from the Asset Privatization Trust and the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

This administration also experienced constant changes in DAR leadership. This led to lack of continuity of priority, programs, and projects.

Allegation on lack of political wills leadership and genuine commitment to implement the program. Critics say that the President could have implemented a genuine agrarian reform program because of her revolutionary powers after People Power I.

- **Fidel V. Ramos (1992-1998)**

*What were the key accomplishments of this administration?*

The Ramos administration is recognized for bringing back support of key stakeholders of CARP by bridging certain policy gaps on land acquisition and distribution, land valuation, and case resolution. It is also credited of enhancing internal operating systems and strengthening the capabilities of the DAR bureaucracy. This

administration is also credited for tapping more resources to help implement the program.

*What was done to facilitate land distribution?*

Guidelines and procedures were formulated to facilitate acquisition and distribution of lands to wit:

- DAR AO No. 2 (1992), rules and procedures governing the distribution of cancelled or expired pasture lease agreements and Timber License Agreements under EO 407;
- DAR AO No. 1 (1993), amending certain provisions of *Administrative Order (AO) No. 9 Series of 1990*, entitled "*Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Acquisition of Agricultural Lands Subject of Voluntary Offer to Sell and Compulsory Acquisition Pursuant to RA 6657*";
- Joint DAR-LBP AO No. 3 (1994), policy guidelines and procedures governing the acquisition and distribution of agricultural lands affected by Mt. Pinatubo eruption;
- DAR AO No. 1 (1995), rules and procedures *Governing the Acquisition and Distribution of all Agricultural Lands Subject of Sequestration/Acquisition by the PCGG and APT whose ownership in Under Court Litigation*;
- DAR AO No. 2 (1995), revised rules and procedures *Governing the Acquisition of Private Agricultural Lands Subject of Voluntary Land Transfer or a Direct Payment Scheme (VLT/DPS) Pursuant to RA 6657*;
- DAR AO No. 2 (1996), rules and regulations *Governing the Acquisition of Agricultural Lands subject of Voluntary Offer to Sell and Compulsory*

*Acquisition Pursuant to RA 6657;*

- DAR AO No. 2 (1997), rules and regulations for the *Acquisition of Private Agricultural Lands Subject of Mortgage or Foreclosure of Mortgage*;
- DAR AO No. 8 (1997), revised guidelines on the *Acquisition and Distribution of Compensable Agricultural Lands under VLT/Direct Payment Scheme*;
- DAR MC No. 7 (1993), implementing guidelines on the *Distribution and Tilling of the Public Agricultural Lands turned over by the National Livelihood and Support Fund to the DAR for distribution under the CARP pursuant to EO 407, Series of 1990 as amended by EO 448, Series of 1991 and as clarified under Memorandum Order (MO) No. 107 of the President of the Philippines dated March 23, 1993.*

*What were some of the challenges of the Ramos administration in the implementation of CARP?*

Failure in enforcing the installation of some farmer beneficiaries on awarded lands became an issue for this administration.

Critics say that “non-physical installation of FBs has been the norm rather than the exception.”

Some sectors also complained on the slowness of this administration in the acquisition and distribution of privately owned lands. Although this administration was credited for having the biggest accomplishment in terms of LAD, critics say this is because the land acquired and distributed were more on public lands and rice and corn lands.

#### • **Joseph Ejercito Estrada (1998-2001)**

*What was the concept of the Magkabalikat Para sa kaunlarang Agraryo (MAGKASAKA) which was launched under this administration?*

The concept was for investors to bring in capital, technology and management support while the farmers will contribute, at most, the use of their land itself.

*What are the objectives of the MAGKASAKA?*

- Encourage investors to bring investments into the countryside; and
- Enhance the income of the farmers through joint venture schemes and contract growing schemes. The program shall enable farmers to be more efficient and globally competitive.

*What were the other accomplishments of this administration regarding CARP?*

This administration saw the urgency of land distribution and believed that it can be served if it is built on farmers’ capacities to pursue their own development. One of the first things this administration did was to rework performance targets – by focusing on the number of hectares of land distributed coupled with an accounting of farmer beneficiaries and the specific croplands and farm systems covered. This approach sought to integrate land distribution and support services. It was during this period that DAR launched a series of land occupations by working with farmer claimants, the LGU and government security forces.

To help speed up litigation, DAR also helped set up the agrarian justice fund for farmer beneficiaries as well as DAR field workers who, due to the nature of the job, are named as respondents in cases filed by recalcitrant landowners. Support services took a much more entrepreneurial approach during this administration. Sustainable rural development district program were

designed to help farmers attain a level of economic viability.

It has forged alliances among countries implementing AR through the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The department then began aggressively to assert its place in national development planning processes to raise DAR's profile both in national and international fora. With this, DAR was able to secure a seat in the annual consultative group meeting between the Philippines's economic management team and the donor community. This period also launched the DAR-DA-DENR convergence initiative.

*What were some of the hindrances during this administration in CARP implementation?*

Fiscal constraints encountered by this administration resulted to the unpaid or delayed payment of landowners covered under the compulsory acquisition and VOS schemes.

There were also issues on inter and intra ARBs conflicts due to arguments for control over negotiations with prospective joint venture partners, some of which became violent.

- **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2001-2010)**

*What was the implementing framework for CARP under the GMA administration?*

The GMA administration has adopted the BAYAN-ANIHAN concept as the implementing framework for CARP.

Bayan means people, Anihan means harvest, and Bayanihan means working together. Applied to CARP, Bayan-Anihan means a united people working together for the successful implementation of agrarian reform.

*What are the different implementing strategies of the Bayan-Anihan Framework?*

- Salin-Lupa: Accelerating land transfer and improving land tenure;
- Katarungan: Prompt and fair settlement of agrarian disputes and delivery of agrarian reform justice;
- Bayanihan: Better delivery by the government of appropriate support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and the mobilization of the ARBs themselves in the transformation of the agrarian reform communities into an agrarian reform zones and into progressive farming;
- Kabayanihan or the Konsehong Bayan Para sa Anihan: Institutionalization not only of the system of dialogue and consultation but also joint problem solving with AR stakeholders, particularly people's organizations, cooperatives and NGOs; and
- Kamalayan: Raising the awareness of DAR personnel, agrarian reform beneficiaries and the general public on agrarian reform and its contribution to social justice and development.

*What was the program strategy of the DAR in CARP Implementation during the Arroyo administration?*

The Kapit Bisig sa Kahirapan Agrarian Reform Zones (KARZONES) is a partnership and convergence strategy aimed at achieving asset reform, poverty reduction, food sufficiency, farm productivity, good governance, social equity and empowerment of ARBs both in ARCs and non-ARCs.

- KaBayanihan or the Konsehong Bayan Para sa Anihan;
- Kamalayan

*What are the other specific programs of this administration to enhance CARP implementation?*

With the Gulayan Magsasakang Agraryo., additional income and food security to farmers and their communities were provided. Educational opportunities were ushered into farmer's children and dependents through the Diosdado Macapagal Scholar Program.

This administration is also credited with heightening agrarian case resolution by introducing a quota system to compel adjudicators to work faster on agrarian cases and train farmers into paralegals.

- **Benigno Simeon Aquino III (2010-2016)**

*What is the implementing framework of CARP under President B. Aquino's Administration?*

Under the governance of President Aquino, the DAR which is the lead agency for CARP implementation is bent on sustaining the gains of agrarian reform through its three major components– Land Tenure Improvement (LTI), Program Beneficiaries Development (PBD) and Agrarian Justice Delivery (AJD).

Together with the efforts to fight graft and corruption by the President, it is imperative to have institutional reforms within DAR as a complement to the abovementioned DAR components as well as give credence, transparency and accountability at all sectors of the DAR bureaucracy.

*What are the strategic directions for the Land Tenure Improvement (LTI)?*

To substantially complete asset reform as mandated by RA 9700 or the CARP Extension with Reforms (CARPer), the DAR is currently:

1. Completing the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) in the CARPER balance through:
  - Focus on large-sized private agricultural lands;
  - Redeployment of competent DAR personnel

to the 20 high LAD provinces;

- Streamline LAD processes and procedures; and
  - Enhance the database of landholdings for ease in targeting and monitoring the LAD;
2. Prioritizing the subdivision of collective Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) involving LBP-compensable lands;
  3. Fast-tracking the documentation and settlement of landowner compensation for already distributed lands;
  4. Synergizing and rationalizing the efforts of the CARP implementing agencies in all processes of LAD;
  5. Partnering with the civil society organizations (CSOs) in the delivery of LTI services, particularly the large-sized priate agricultural lands (PAL);
  6. Adopting a job-sharing scheme wherein under the ONE-DAR concept, provinces will share responsibilities (low-LAD provinces with high LAD provinces) to minimize the need to hire new personnel; and
  7. Increasing the utilization of the services of geodetic engineers to assist the provincial and municipal offices in land acquisition considering the difficulty of hiring new personnel and the demands of a post-2014 scenario.

*What are the strategic directions for Program Beneficiaries Development (PBD)?*

Under President Aquino's administration, the DAR's PBD priorities are geared toward:

1. Undertaking convergence initiatives with rural

development agencies to complement the resources and streamline the efforts of DAR, DA, and DENR;

2. Inking public-private partnerships (PPPs) develop models of collaboration and business models in AR areas with the participations of the CSOs, academe, research and development institutions and LGUs;
3. Expanding official development assistance (ODA) portfolio in order to augment incomes for PBD;
4. Integrating LTI and PBD on a province-to-province basis;
5. Shifting focus of low-LAD balance provinces to PBD; and
6. Unlocking credit facilities for the agrarian reform beneficiaries through capacity development for credit providers and farmer-borrowers.

*What are the strategic directions for Agrarian Justice Delivery (AJD) under the present DAR governance?*

To speed up the resolution of AR related cases, the AJD component is geared.

1. Putting the legal framework in place to expedite the LAD process and undertake PBD lawyering to ensure ARBs' free and informed consent on agribusiness agreements;
2. Developing common templates and legal outlines in order to rationalize the DAR lawyers' and paralegals' appreciation and decision on cases;
3. Improving the capabilities of DAR lawyers and legal officers; and
4. Utilizing information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance legal work.

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**Reference/s:**

Department of Agrarian Reform (2013). *Agrarian history – DAR*. Lifted and modified from [www.dar.gov.ph/downloads/category/82-faqs?download=837:faqs-on-ar-history](http://www.dar.gov.ph/downloads/category/82-faqs?download=837:faqs-on-ar-history)

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