



Centre on Integrated
Rural Development for
Asia and the Pacific
(CIRDAP)

THE SECOND CELEBRATION OF

WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2026

(July 6)

THEME 2026

Towards Vibrant,
Prosperous and Happy
Rural Communities



INCLUSIVE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



POVERTY GRADUATION
& LIVELIHOOD SECURITY



GREEN & SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE



PARTNERSHIP FOR
RURAL PROSPERITY



RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE
& CONNECTIVITY

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Philippines:
Empowering & Strengthening Rural Communities,
and Advancing Inclusive Development
for a More Prosperous Nation

By

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Warm greetings as we celebrate World Rural Development Day.

This occasion honors the dedication of our farmers, fisherfolk, rural workers, and local communities as the backbone of our nation's progress. It also recognizes the significant work remaining, as these communities continue to confront systemic challenges such as poverty, limited resource access, and infrastructure disparities.

To bridge the gap between rural and urban realities, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) reaffirms its commitment to sustainable rural development through three interconnected pillars: land tenure security, support services, and socio-economic development.

Through land distribution and parcelization, DAR addresses historical landlessness by transferring agricultural lands to qualified beneficiaries, while its agrarian justice programs provide legal protection and dispute resolution to safeguard them from eviction. Building on these, DAR strengthens rural livelihoods by equipping farmers with training in sustainable agriculture, cooperative development, and climate resilience, while facilitating access to credit, microfinance, and modern farming technologies. Through initiatives like the Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP) program, Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs) supply fresh produce directly to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) feeding programs and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) facilities, creating stable income opportunities and supporting food security.

DAR's 2026 initiatives focus on land distribution, debt condonation, and climate-resilient agribusiness. From July 2022 to April 2026, the agency distributed 398,316 land titles covering 538,802 hectares to 366,332 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) nationwide. DAR also continues to implement Republic Act No. 11953, or the New Agrarian Emancipation Act, erasing billions in outstanding principal loans, unpaid amortizations, and interests directly increasing farmers' disposable income. Beyond land distribution, DAR has also invested in infrastructure, completing 219 irrigation projects, constructing 517 farm-to-market roads, and distributing 11,509 farm machineries and equipment as of April 2026, to protect rural livelihoods against erratic weather patterns and transfer isolated rural communities' produce to urban markets.

To ensure land ownership results in sustainable livelihoods, DAR has intensified agricultural value chain development. In partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) agencies, DAR launched the country's first CARP-Tindahan in Asingan, Pangasinan early this year, providing farmers with direct retail spaces to market products without intermediaries. This pilot serves as a scalable model for nationwide rural enterprise development.

Additionally, on April 8, 2026, DAR and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) signed the P8.09-billion Value Chain Innovation for Sustainable Transformation

(VISTA) Project, co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This is a six-year program aiming to reduce rural poverty and enhance food security and climate resilience in upland communities by supporting sustainable coffee and cacao value chains for 80,000 smallholder households across 112 communities in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and SOCCSKSARGEN, prioritizing women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth.

These are actionable steps we continue to advance-moving beyond the mere recognition of rural communities as the bedrock of our global society toward empowering rural populations to build resilient, self-sufficient, self-sufficient, and thriving rural landscapes.