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Post-Settlement Obstacles Faced by Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries: An In-Depth Qualitative Analysis of Governance and Policy Implementation in Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon Province

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative two-case study examined post-settlement obstacles faced by Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) in Barangay Cambuga, Mulanay, and Barangay Busokbusokan, San Narciso, Quezon Province, with emphasis on governance, policy implementation, livelihood sustainability, and socioeconomic outcomes. Guided primarily by the Sustainable Livelihood Approach, the study used an interpretivist and emic orientation. The participant structure reported in the dissertation included 20 ARBs (10 from each barangay), eight Department of Agrarian Reform employees, two officials from the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office, two Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee chairpersons, and two barangay chairpersons. Data were generated through semi-structured key informant interviews, Ginabayang Talakayan sessions, field observation, and document analysis, then examined through thematic analysis, cross-case comparison, triangulation, member checking, and an audit trail. Findings showed five major economic constraints: limited access to capital, inadequate infrastructure, fluctuating market prices, land-tenure insecurity, and limited market access. Land distribution was generally recognized as an important achievement, but post-settlement support was only partially effective because financial assistance was difficult to access, technical training was irregular, infrastructure remained insufficient, and coordination among implementing institutions was weak. These obstacles contributed to financial instability, social tension, health and well-being concerns, and limited community development. Cross-case analysis indicated that San Narciso experienced stronger structural and administrative constraints, whereas Mulanay showed more situational, land-boundary, ownership, and environmental concerns. The study concludes that land ownership alone is insufficient to produce sustainable rural livelihoods and recommends an integrated post-settlement support system combining accessible agricultural finance, rural infrastructure, market linkages, secure land tenure, continuous extension and training, stronger institutional coordination, and community-development support.

Keywords: *agrarian reform beneficiaries, post-settlement obstacles, Sustainable Livelihood Approach, governance, policy implementation, Bondoc Peninsula*

INTRODUCTION

Agrarian reform in the Philippines has long been pursued as a mechanism for correcting unequal land ownership, reducing rural poverty, and widening access to productive assets. The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and its succeeding reforms expanded land redistribution and formalized landownership for many tenant farmers. Yet the literature consistently shows that land transfer, although essential, does not automatically generate higher productivity, stable income, or improved welfare when it is not accompanied by credit, infrastructure, market access, training, and institutional support (Balisacan, 2003; Ballesteros et al., 2018; Deininger, 2003).

Evidence from the Philippines and other agrarian-reform settings points to a continuing gap between landownership and livelihood transformation. Land reform can improve security and opportunities, but beneficiaries remain vulnerable when they lack capital, productive infrastructure, organizational support, and reliable markets (Bradstock, 2005; Borras, 2007; Drbohlav et al., 2017). In the Philippine context, implementation constraints and uneven support services have repeatedly limited the capacity of beneficiaries to convert awarded land into sustained economic gains (Fabella, 2014; Gordoncillo, 2012).

This post-settlement dimension is particularly important in geographically isolated farming communities. Poor farm-to-market roads, inadequate irrigation, high transaction costs, volatile commodity prices, and dependence on intermediaries can erode the value of landownership. At the same time, unclear boundaries, delayed documentation, and land disputes can discourage long-term farm investment. These challenges reveal that agrarian reform must be evaluated not only by hectares distributed or titles issued but also by whether beneficiaries acquire the conditions needed to use land productively and securely.

Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon Province provides a critical setting for examining these concerns. The dissertation focused on Barangay Cambuga in Mulanay and Barangay Busokbusokan in San Narciso, where beneficiaries had lived with post-settlement realities for many years. The study identified a local research gap: while considerable attention has been given to the design and implementation of CARP, less empirical work has examined how beneficiaries in these communities experience the period after land transfer, including the interaction of livelihood assets, institutional support, governance, markets, and environmental vulnerability.

Accordingly, the study examined the economic challenges experienced by ARBs after land transfer, assessed the perceived effectiveness of agrarian-reform policies and support mechanisms, analyzed the socioeconomic effects of post-settlement obstacles, and developed recommendations for strengthening policy implementation and beneficiary support. The analysis was anchored primarily in the Sustainable Livelihood Approach and was supplemented by institutional/governance, social-capital, and participation perspectives to understand agrarian reform as a continuing livelihood-building process rather than a one-time land-distribution event.

Literature Review

Agrarian Reform Beyond Land Distribution

Agrarian reform is intended to redistribute productive assets and alter long-standing structures of rural inequality, but its socioeconomic effects depend heavily on the broader policy environment. Balisacan (2007) and Quisumbing (1987) link agrarian reform with poverty reduction and rural development, while Putzel (1992) emphasizes the political and institutional complexity that accompanies land redistribution in the Philippines. These perspectives suggest that ownership is a necessary foundation but not a sufficient outcome.

The long-term value of land reform becomes clearer when post-distribution conditions are examined. Ballesteros et al. (2018) documented both accomplishments and continuing institutional issues after decades of CARP implementation. Adriano (2008) likewise argued for a broader rural-development architecture, while Aquino et al. (2013) situated CARP within a continuing policy trajectory rather than a completed redistribution project.

Research also shows that land reform outcomes vary according to the availability of complementary interventions. Bradstock (2005) found that livelihood changes following land reform are shaped by access to resources and opportunities, while Deininger (2003) emphasized the role of institutions, tenure arrangements, and complementary services. Thus, post-settlement analysis is essential for assessing whether land ownership is translated into livelihood security.

Sustainable Livelihoods and Post-Settlement Vulnerability

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) provides the principal analytical lens of the dissertation. It treats livelihood sustainability as the outcome of interactions among vulnerability conditions, livelihood assets, institutional structures, strategies, and resulting well-being. The source framework places human, social, financial, physical, and natural assets at the center of beneficiary experience, while recognizing that these assets are shaped by governance and policy implementation. This interpretation is consistent with the foundational livelihood framework of Chambers and Conway (1992) and later livelihood perspectives synthesized by Scoones (2009).

For ARBs, natural capital is represented most visibly by the awarded land, but the usefulness of this asset depends on access to the other forms of capital. Financial capital is needed for seeds, fertilizers, equipment, and farm operations; physical capital includes roads, irrigation, post-harvest facilities, and utilities; human capital involves skills, health, and agricultural knowledge; and social capital includes family networks, cooperatives, barangay structures, and institutional linkages.

The SLA therefore helps explain why landownership can coexist with continuing poverty. When one or more livelihood assets are weak, beneficiaries may struggle to convert land into reliable income. The framework also highlights vulnerability to price shocks, typhoons, drought, pests, and political or legal pressures, all of which may undermine the stability of rural livelihoods even after formal tenure has been granted.

Financial, Infrastructure, Market, and Tenure Constraints

Limited access to finance remains a recurring problem in agrarian communities. Small farmers often have difficulty meeting formal lending requirements and may depend on personal savings, relatives, informal lenders, or short-term borrowing. Monsod and Piza (2014) caution against treating CARP outcomes independently from post-settlement support, while Galang (2020) underscores continuing institutional and titling issues that affect beneficiaries' productive use of land.

Infrastructure and market access are equally important. Poor roads and insufficient irrigation raise production costs and reduce the market value of agricultural output, particularly in remote rural areas. Limbo (2018) emphasized the importance of connectivity and resource mobilization in agrarian reform communities. Weak market linkages also increase dependence on intermediaries and reduce the bargaining power of small producers.

Tenure security extends beyond the possession of a title. Boundary disputes, unclear property markers, documentation delays, and fear of claims by previous landholders can affect willingness to invest in awarded land. When beneficiaries perceive ownership as uncertain, long-term improvements in soil, irrigation, crops, and farm infrastructure become riskier. This makes legal support and accurate land documentation important components of livelihood sustainability.

Governance, Institutional Support, and Social Capital

Agrarian reform is implemented through multiple institutions, including the Department of Agrarian Reform, local government units, financial institutions, agricultural offices, and farmer organizations. Fragmented responsibilities can weaken service delivery when coordination is slow or when beneficiaries must repeatedly approach different offices. Ramos (2019) documented implementation issues at the municipal level, while Luna (2015) linked weak institutional support with continuing difficulties among agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Social networks partly compensate for institutional gaps. Granovetter (1985) explains how economic action is embedded in social relationships, and the dissertation similarly found that information about programs, referrals, informal credit, and access to government assistance often traveled through barangays, associations, relatives, and farmer networks. Lorayna and Caelian (2020) also highlight the role of civil-society participation in CARP implementation.

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However, dependence on networks can reproduce inequality when organized or well-connected beneficiaries gain easier access to programs than isolated farmers. Stronger cooperatives, transparent information systems, and regular stakeholder consultations are therefore important for making post-settlement support more inclusive and less dependent on personal connections or repeated follow-up.

Participation, Resilience, and Sustainable Rural Development

Participation is central to responsive post-settlement governance because beneficiaries themselves possess direct knowledge of production constraints, local infrastructure, and the accessibility of government programs. The study's use of Ginabayang Talakayan reflected this principle by providing a culturally familiar setting for collective reflection and validation. Participatory structures can also strengthen accountability and help align interventions with local priorities.

Rural sustainability further requires attention to climate and environmental vulnerability. Agricultural households in the study areas remained exposed to typhoons, crop damage, changing weather, and water-related constraints. Support systems that combine infrastructure, insurance, climate-resilient practices, extension services, and diversified markets can improve the ability of beneficiaries to absorb and recover from shocks.

Taken together, the literature supports an integrated interpretation of agrarian reform. Land, finance, infrastructure, skills, markets, institutions, social networks, and environmental resilience operate as an interconnected system. The conceptual paradigm retained from the dissertation summarizes these relationships and frames the empirical analysis that follows.

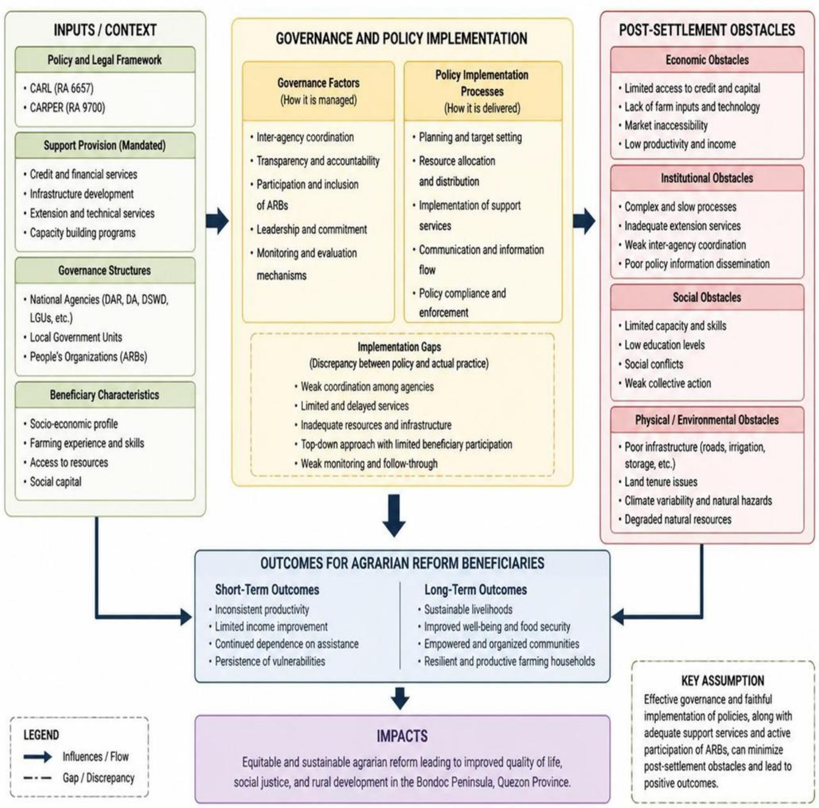

Figure 1. *Conceptual Paradigm of the Study*

METHODS

Research Design

The study used a qualitative two-case study design within an interpretivist and emic orientation. The cases were Barangay Cambuga in Mulanay and Barangay Busokbusokan in San Narciso, both in the Bondoc Peninsula of Quezon Province. The design enabled an in-depth comparison of post-settlement experiences within their natural governance, livelihood, and community contexts.

Research Locale

The research was conducted in Barangay Cambuga, Mulanay, and Barangay Busokbusokan, San Narciso. Both communities had a history of CARP implementation and a substantial presence of ARBs with long-term experience of land redistribution. Their geographic conditions, agricultural livelihoods, relative peace-and-order stability, and participants' willingness to share experiences made them suitable for cross-case analysis.

Participants and Sampling Technique

The dissertation used purposive selection to obtain information-rich participants directly involved in agrarian reform and post-settlement support. Twenty ARBs served as the principal beneficiary informants, with 10 from each barangay. Inclusion required official ARB status under CARP or CARPER, approximately 10–15 years or more of tenure experience, active farming or participation in agrarian organizations, exposure to post-settlement support services, willingness to share experiences, and geographic representation. The source participant tables further identified eight DAR employees, two officials from the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office, two Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee chairpersons, and two barangay chairpersons as institutional and community stakeholders.

Table 1. *Participants and Primary Information Sources*

Participant/Stakeholder Group	Number	Primary Contribution
Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries: Cambuga and Busokbusokan	20 (10 per barangay)	Post-settlement livelihood experiences, obstacles, coping, and perceived support
Department of Agrarian Reform employees	8	Implementation processes, support delivery, and institutional feedback
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office officials	2	Government role in post-settlement services and program implementation
Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee chairpersons	2	Application and beneficiary-support experiences at community level
Barangay chairpersons	2	Local governance, community support, and implementation context

Research Instrument and Data Sources

Data were generated through semi-structured Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Ginabayang Talakayan (GT) sessions used as a localized form of focus group discussion, field observation, and document analysis. The researcher-developed interview and GT guides focused on economic challenges, policy and support mechanisms, livelihood impacts, institutional roles, and recommendations. The guides were subjected to content validation by subject-matter experts from the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture.

Data Gathering Procedure

Data gathering proceeded after coordination with municipal officers, local officials, BARC chairpersons, and community leaders. Individual interviews allowed ARBs and institutional informants to discuss livelihood conditions, access to farming resources, income, government support, and post-settlement concerns. GT sessions enabled collective reflection and validation. Field observations documented roads, farm conditions, irrigation, and basic services, while policy and administrative documents—including agrarian-reform laws, DAR records, and local planning materials—were reviewed to compare intended support mechanisms with beneficiaries' experiences.

Data Analysis

All qualitative data were subjected to thematic analysis. Transcripts, field notes, GT discussions, observations, and documentary evidence were reviewed for recurring meanings and organized into themes aligned with the research questions. Within-case analysis was followed by cross-case comparison between Mulanay and San Narciso. Emergent themes were interpreted through the Sustainable Livelihood Approach to examine how vulnerability, livelihood assets, governance, and support systems shaped post-settlement outcomes.

Trustworthiness

Credibility was strengthened through multiple participant perspectives, triangulation of KIIs, GT/FGD data, document analysis, and observations, and member checking of initial interpretations with selected respondents. Transferability was supported through detailed description of the study context. Dependability and confirmability were addressed through an audit trail, research records, adviser and critical-reader review, and repeated checking of themes against the source data.

Ethical Consideration

Participation was voluntary and based on informed consent. Participants were informed of the study objectives, procedures, possible risks and benefits, confidentiality safeguards, and their right to withdraw without penalty. Identifying information was excluded from reports, pseudonyms or codes were used for participant statements, access to research records was restricted, and findings were reported in ways intended to protect individuals and communities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Economic Challenges After Land Distribution

Five interconnected economic challenges emerged: limited access to capital, inadequate infrastructure, fluctuating market prices, land-tenure insecurity, and limited access to markets. These constraints demonstrate the difference between possessing land as natural capital and having the financial and physical resources needed to transform that land into a reliable livelihood.

"When it rains, the road becomes impassable, and we cannot bring our produce to the market."

"The price of copra is especially volatile. One month it's high, and the next month it drops."

Table 2. *Cross-Case Pattern of Post-Settlement Economic Challenges*

Theme	Common Pattern	San Narciso: Busokbusokan	Mulanay: Cambuga
Access to capital	Formal finance was difficult; beneficiaries relied on personal effort, informal borrowing, or networks.	Assistance existed through agencies and organizations but required persistent follow-up and was often limited or delayed.	Many relied on own labor and income; the source reports that 56% received no bank/government financial assistance and 25% relied solely on own income/effort.
Infrastructure	Poor roads and insufficient irrigation reduced productivity and marketability.	Structural and logistical limitations were prominent, including roads, equipment, and irrigation.	Infrastructure concerns existed but were less dominant than boundary, ownership, and environmental issues.

Theme	Common Pattern	San Narciso: Busokbusokan	Mulanay: Cambuga
Market prices and access	Unstable prices and high transport costs weakened income planning and bargaining power.	Limited production and marketing support reinforced dependence on intermediaries.	Market distance, price instability, and production costs constrained returns.
Land tenure	Boundary uncertainty and fear of future claims discouraged investment.	Documentation delays and unclear boundaries were linked with institutional processes.	Missing boundary markers, previous-landholder concerns, taxes, and possible claims were more visible.
Environmental risk	Weather shocks threatened crops and livelihood stability.	Structural barriers interacted with environmental vulnerability.	Typhoon damage and other situational/environmental concerns were more prominent.

The cross-case pattern is important. San Narciso respondents emphasized structural and administrative barriers such as slow documentation, weak coordination, limited infrastructure, and insufficient post-settlement support. Mulanay respondents reported fewer systemic constraints but stronger situational concerns involving boundary clarification, rightful ownership, taxes, and environmental hazards. Despite these differences, both cases showed that formal ownership did not remove uncertainty or guarantee productive land use. These finding parallels broader research showing that land reform outcomes depend on complementary institutional and livelihood support (Borras, 2007; Drbohlav et al., 2017; Valente, 2009).

Effectiveness of Agrarian Reform Policies and Support Mechanisms

Participants generally recognized access to land as a major accomplishment of agrarian reform. However, policy effectiveness declined when attention shifted from title distribution to the quality, continuity, and accessibility of post-settlement support. Four areas were repeatedly discussed: access to land, financial support, technical assistance and training, and institutional support/local government involvement.

> *"The land was given to us, but it's not enough. We need help with irrigation, tools, and seeds to make the land productive." (ARB-CB-02)*

> *"Some assistance was received, such as seeds, seminars, and advice from technicians, but it was not provided regularly."*

Table 3. *Perceived Effectiveness of Agrarian Reform Support Mechanisms*

Support Area	Finding	Implementation Implication
Access to land	Land distribution and formal ownership were broadly recognized as important achievements.	Land access should be treated as the starting point of post-settlement livelihood development.
Financial support	Loan and subsidy access was often slow, bureaucratic, irregular, or inaccessible to small farmers.	Simplify requirements, reduce processing delays, expand low-interest and cooperative-based financing, and improve financial guidance.
Technical assistance and training	Some beneficiaries received seminars, seeds, advice, or technician support, but delivery was inconsistent.	Institutionalize continuous extension, field demonstrations, and climate-resilient agricultural training.
Institutional and LGU support	DAR, LGUs, barangays, and partner agencies provided useful support, but coordination and follow-through varied.	Establish clearer multi-agency coordination, regular consultation, monitoring, and accountable service-delivery mechanisms.

The policy-support findings reveal a persistent implementation gap. Existing agrarian-reform laws contain provisions for credit, infrastructure, extension, and support services, yet beneficiaries experienced uneven delivery. This mirrors national assessments emphasizing institutional and implementation constraints (Adriano, 2008; Ballesteros et al., 2018; Ramos, 2019). The key issue was not the absence of policy intent but the difficulty of translating that intent into timely, coordinated, and accessible services at community level.

Socioeconomic Effects on Beneficiaries and Communities

Post-settlement obstacles produced effects that extended beyond farm production. Four major socioeconomic consequences emerged: financial instability, social conflict, health and well-being challenges, and limited community development. These outcomes illustrate how weaknesses in financial, physical, and institutional assets can affect household welfare and community conditions simultaneously.

Table 4. *Socioeconomic Impacts of Post-Settlement Obstacles*

Impact Theme	Manifestation in the Cases	Broader Meaning
Financial instability	Low and unstable farm income constrained basic needs and reduced capacity to reinvest in agriculture.	Landownership did not automatically translate into household economic security.
Social conflict	Unequal access to resources, boundary issues, and land-related tensions affected community relationships.	Tenure and support inequalities can weaken social cohesion.
Health and well-being	Financial strain, poor nutrition, and stress were linked by participants to health concerns.	Livelihood insecurity has social-welfare and health implications, not only agricultural effects.
Limited community development	Weak income and inadequate infrastructure constrained local services and collective development.	Post-settlement support should be connected with wider rural and community development.

"Even though we have land, we are not able to develop our community. The government should invest more in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to help us improve our living conditions." (ARB-BB-01)

These outcomes support the dissertation's SLA interpretation: land is only one asset within a wider livelihood system. When credit, infrastructure, skills, market access, and institutional support remain weak, households cannot easily convert land ownership into stable welfare gains. This is consistent with studies linking agrarian reform outcomes to wider rural-development and institutional conditions (Balisacan, 2007; Luna, 2015; Yap & Tang, 2019).

Policy Gaps and the Strengthened Agrarian Support Services Framework

Cross-case analysis identified several gaps between legal provisions and field-level experiences. Formal ownership improved tenure recognition, but boundary verification and dispute prevention remained incomplete in some areas. Credit provisions existed, but small farmers found formal finance difficult to obtain. Extension and training were available but irregular. Infrastructure development remained uneven, and environmental risks such as typhoons and unstable farm income were not fully addressed by conventional support systems.

Table 5. *Condensed Policy Gap Analysis*

Observed Gap	Field-Level Evidence	Policy/Program Direction
Land transfer and boundary security	Some beneficiaries reported unclear boundaries, missing markers, previous-landholder concerns, and documentation uncertainty.	Expand cadastral verification, boundary markers, conflict mediation, and accessible legal assistance.

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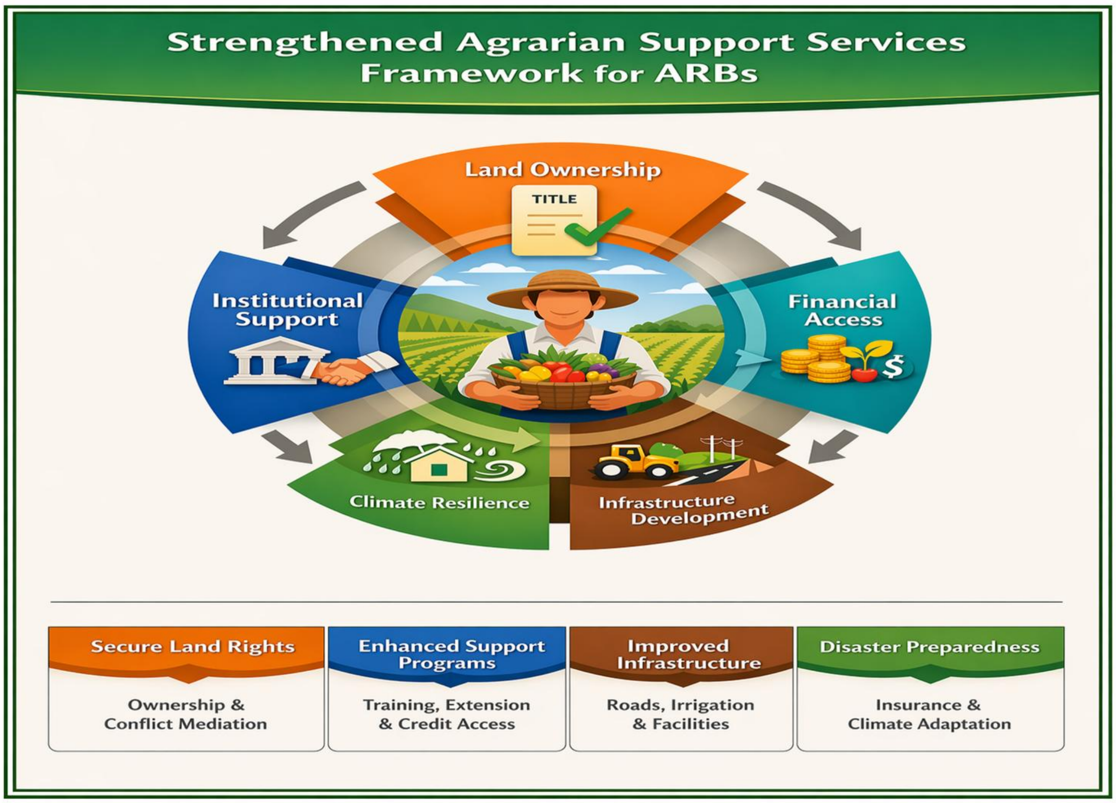
Observed Gap	Field-Level Evidence	Policy/Program Direction
Agricultural finance	Formal loan opportunities were limited or difficult to access; informal borrowing remained common.	Simplify lending requirements and expand ARB-specific, cooperative-managed, and low-interest credit.
Extension and training	Training and technical assistance were described as occasional rather than continuous.	Institutionalize regular extension, field schools, and climate-resilient farming support.
Rural infrastructure	Road, irrigation, water, and related services were insufficient or uneven.	Prioritize ARB-community infrastructure within local development planning and monitoring.
Climate/disaster resilience	Typhoons and other environmental risks continued to cause losses and livelihood uncertainty.	Integrate agricultural insurance, disaster assistance, and climate-adaptive production measures.

Figure 2. *Strengthened Agrarian Support Services Framework for ARBs*



The framework reinforces the study's core argument: agrarian reform sustainability depends on an integrated support architecture rather than isolated interventions. It also reflects the importance of social organization and institutional coordination, consistent with the role of networks in resource access (Granovetter, 1985) and with evidence that civil-society participation can strengthen agrarian-reform implementation (Lorayna & Caelian, 2020).

Strategic Directions for Sustainable Post-Settlement Support

The dissertation translated its findings into a three- to five-year strategic action plan. The plan is designed to improve access to livelihood resources, strengthen institutional coordination, enhance productivity, and build resilience among ARB communities.

Table 6. *Condensed 3–5 Year Strategic Action Plan*

Strategic Area	Priority Interventions	Indicative Time Frame	Expected Direction
Agricultural financing	ARB-specific credit facilities; cooperative revolving funds; simpler loan requirements; financial-literacy support.	Years 1–5	Greater financial stability, higher farm investment, less dependence on informal lenders.
Rural infrastructure	Farm-to-market roads; irrigation expansion; rural electrification and water systems.	Years 1–5	Lower transport barriers, improved productivity, reduced post-harvest losses.
Markets and value chains	Strengthen cooperatives and marketing associations; institutional buyers; digital market information.	Years 1–5	Higher and more stable farm income; reduced dependence on middlemen.
Land tenure security	Accelerate documentation; legal assistance; boundary verification; land-rights awareness.	Years 1–5	Fewer disputes and stronger confidence in long-term farm investment.
Training and extension	Needs assessment; regular training; field demonstrations; climate-resilient methods; stronger extension services.	Years 1–5	Improved farming techniques, productivity, and adaptability.
Institutional coordination	Provincial multi-agency coordination mechanism; stakeholder consultations; monitoring and evaluation.	Years 1–5	More coherent policy implementation and service delivery.
Community development and social welfare	Integrated livelihood programs; health partnerships; education and local infrastructure support.	Years 1–5	Improved quality of life, reduced vulnerability, stronger community resilience.

CONCLUSION

The study demonstrates that land ownership alone is insufficient to secure sustainable livelihoods for ARBs in Barangay Cambuga and Barangay Busokbusokan. Beneficiaries continued to face limited capital, inadequate infrastructure, fluctuating prices, insecure or unclear tenure conditions, and weak market access. These constraints reduced farm productivity and household income and limited the capacity of beneficiaries to transform awarded land into a stable economic base.

Existing agrarian-reform policies and support mechanisms were perceived as only partially effective. Land distribution represented a significant achievement, but financial assistance remained difficult to access, technical and extension support was irregular, infrastructure was insufficient, and institutional coordination required strengthening. Post-settlement obstacles consequently affected not only agriculture but also social relationships, health and well-being, and community development.

The cross-case evidence further shows that post-settlement conditions are context-sensitive. San Narciso was more strongly affected by structural and administrative barriers, while Mulanay showed more situational, ownership, boundary, and environmental concerns. Agrarian reform should therefore be understood as a continuing livelihood-building and rural-development process in which land tenure, financing, infrastructure, markets, skills, institutions, social organization, and climate resilience must function together.

Recommendation

The Department of Agrarian Reform, Land Bank of the Philippines, local government units, and partner financial institutions should simplify ARB loan and subsidy procedures, reduce processing delays, develop low-interest and cooperative-managed financing, and provide field-level financial-literacy and application assistance.

National and local agencies should prioritize farm-to-market roads, irrigation, water systems, rural electrification, post-harvest facilities, and other infrastructure in agrarian reform communities and integrate these projects into local development and monitoring systems.

Market access should be strengthened through ARB cooperatives and marketing associations, partnerships with institutional buyers, better price and market information, and digital or community-based marketing platforms that reduce dependence on intermediaries.

Land tenure security should be reinforced through faster title and document processing, cadastral and boundary verification, permanent boundary markers where needed, accessible legal assistance, and conflict-mediation mechanisms.

Agricultural extension should become continuous rather than episodic. Regular farmer field schools, modern and climate-resilient production training, demonstrations, and locally responsive technical advice should be institutionalized.

A multi-agency agrarian reform coordination mechanism should be strengthened at provincial and municipal levels, with regular consultations involving ARBs, cooperatives, barangays, DAR, LGUs, agricultural agencies, and financing institutions. Monitoring should focus on livelihood outcomes as well as land distribution.

Future studies should expand the geographic coverage beyond the two Bondoc Peninsula communities, use longitudinal designs to examine changing post-settlement conditions, and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed financing, infrastructure, market, training, and coordination interventions after implementation.

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