

the hard realities of land reform

The facts about rice farming and tenancy in the Philippines are revealed in a new book entitled *View From the Paddy*, edited by Frank Lynch of the Ateneo de Manila. Special features include a 24-page section on the teaching of a course in agrarian reform and three alternative outlines for the course (emphasis on moral, economic, empirical dimensions), with topics for class sessions, readings and other assignments, and a bibliography. For every reading, questions for discussion are listed. Additionally, there are maps, photographs, and a 10-page index and glossary in which Tagalog farming terms are explained.

The approach is empirical throughout, with the following topics considered:

- land reform in Nueva Ecija
- land reform in Bulacan
- tenants' dilemmas
- historical overview of land reform and appraisal of the available literature
- historical view of the fruits of agrarian protest
- sociological aspects of irrigation systems
- plans, accomplishments of the NARRA Palawan settlement
- excerpts from *Ilocano Rice Farmers* by H. T. Lewis
- Hardie Report summary
- Macapagal's statement accompanying the amended Agricultural Land Reform Code (R.A. 3844)

Secretary Arturo Tanco of the Department of Agriculture writes:

"Particularly in the area of cultural and socioeconomic factors affecting land reform – to which this volume principally addresses itself – there have been to date too many moral pronouncements, too many myths, and too much wishful thinking. This set of articles should help temper myth with reality and provide the empirical data urgently needed by policy-makers, fieldmen, and students alike. Thus wishful thinking can be converted into purposeful, informed action. "This is a volume that must be read by those in government who are involved in agrarian reform and whose commitment should be matched with deep understanding of its complexities. Indeed, this is must reading for every concerned citizen."

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