

ABSTRACTS OF CONVENTION PAPERS

A TYPOLOGY OF FILIPINO PEASANTS IN THE 1980s

ANTONIO J. LEDESMA, S.J. and LUZVIMINDA B. CORNISTA

The paper presents two sets of variables (farm size-farm technology, and land/labor tenure and access to public services) as a way of defining the peasantry. Based on these variables the paper sketches a typology of the Filipino peasant today and concludes with the manner in which development issues affect Filipino peasants.

THE PHILIPPINE PEASANTRY OF THE EARLY COLONIAL PERIOD

CAROLYN L. SOBRITCHEA

The paper describes property relations and the land tenure system in pre-colonial Philippines and during the first 200 years of Spanish colonial rule. The oppressive tenurial system under a feudal mode of production engendered sharp class differences which has initially remained unchanged through the rest of the colonial and the post colonial period.

MONOPOLY EXPANSION IN PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE

RENE E. OFRENEO

The paper demonstrates how the promotion of neocolonial agri-industrialization is bringing the Philippines closer to the global capitalist economy by a source of a steady supply of raw materials by the opening up of new market for industrial goods, the exploitation of cheap labor and cheap resources and serving as a rich investment area. The modernization and industrialization of Philippine agriculture, however, does not help to meet the basic needs of the Filipino people. Rather it is a development dependent on foreign monopoly capital and seeks the satisfaction of local and multinational agribusiness profit requirements. To the majority of the rural masses, this can only mean continuing poverty and underdevelopment.

PHILIPPINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: CORPORATE FARMING OR LAND REFORM?

EDUARDO C. TADEM

The paper assesses the government's corporate farming program and finds several flaws, among them: (1) that the program runs counter to the redistributive concept behind the existing agrarian reform program, (2) that corporate farms have sometimes caused dislocation of established farming communities, (3) that corporate farms are labor-displacing, and (4) that corporate farms undermine the position of existing peasant programs. The paper urges a total review of the program, and recommends a peasant-centered, rather than a corporate-centered approach.

SOME NOTES ON THE MASAGANA 99 PROGRAM AND
SMALL FARMER ACCESS TO CREDIT

EMMANUEL ESGUERRA

The paper focuses on the accessibility of credit to small farmers as a performance indicator of the Masagana 99 program. Its main argument is that the logic of profit maximization dictates that credit agencies are generally adverse to high risk lending. It is this attitude toward risk which makes access to institutional credit difficult for the majority of small farmers, even with the existence of a special credit program of the Masagana 99. More than this, however, it is the prevailing structures of property relations based on the monopoly of land and the social and institutional arrangements that it nurtures which are responsible for the small farmers' low income – making them "poor credit risks" – and thus reducing their chances of being able to benefit to any substantial degree from the Masagana 99 credit program.

SURVIVAL, INTERDEPENDENCE AND COMPETITION
AMONG THE PHILIPPINE RURAL POOR

GEORGE CARNER

Poverty is an elusive concept, but it is possible to identify who the poor are and the causes of their poverty in terms that, while representing only an approximation, are nonetheless revealing. In the Philippines one can distinguish three broad groupings as the most disadvantaged and significant: landless agricultural workers, upland farmers and sustenance fishermen. Their survival strategies reveal significant differences and disparities in the socioeconomic outcomes. Despite their resourcefulness in managing limited productive assets and exploiting available opportunities, their survival efforts are seriously undermined by a vicious cycle of population pressures, environmental decline, and the growth cycle itself. These cycles must be broken through appropriate policies and specific targeting of programs on the needs of these poor groups, if their livelihoods are to improve.

CORRELATES OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' SCORES
ON THE NATIONAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM: IMPLICATION FOR THE LIFE CHANCES
OF DISADVANTAGED RURAL YOUTH

MICHAEL A. COSTELLO and MARILOU PALABRICA-COSTELLO

Using data from a survey of 780 secondary school seniors in the southern Philippines, the authors construct and test a model describing the influence of various background and school characteristics upon National College Entrance Exam (NCEE) scores. Of these characteristics, the most important predictive factors are parental level of living, father's education, residence, and school type. Multiple classification analysis further shows the cumulative impact of these factors upon NCEE scores, with students from more advantageous backgrounds scoring up to 70 percentile points higher on the average than those from less advantageous circumstances. These findings imply that the NCEE probably serves to restrict the mobility chances of disadvantaged rural youth.

POWER DYNAMICS OF RURAL FAMILIES:
THE CASE OF A SAMAR BARRIO

MINA E. CONTADO

The study investigates the power structure of rural families by looking at patterns of decision-making, authority, influence, and task role allocation. One hundred thirty-two respondents

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from 114 families in a barrio of Eastern Samar comprise the study's sample. The results show a relationship between family life cycle and family power structure, with the wife appearing to increase her dominance with the coming of children into the family. It is concluded that the power structure of Filipino rural families seem to be matriarchal, but one which tends toward a more egalitarian structure.

THE SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE: TWO ASPECTS FROM A PROJECT IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

FRANCIS C. MADIGAN, S.J.

The paper answers the question: What are the effects of rural cooperative electrification service upon a rural community? The paper addresses the effects of rural electrification in isolation from other elements of a developmental package. The paper finds a positive association between electrification and median income, and between electrification and non-farm employment. The paper also finds positive results from the points of view of cost/benefit and social soundness aspects of the MORESCO I project.

FOCUS ON FILIPINO RURAL WOMEN

ROSALINDA V. PINEDA

The author shows how rural women are exploited by the pattern of export-oriented and agro-industrial development and the agrarian reform program occurring in the Philippine countryside. The disadvantaged position of rural women is exacerbated by the inequitable distribution of wealth and the continuing foreign economic domination. Thus, one should not merely see to the economic needs of these women but also train them to assume more responsible roles in the broader movement for real national development and social progress.

CHANGING RURAL INSTITUTIONS IN A RICE GROWING BARRIO

CAROLINA A. DEL ROSARIO

The paper presents a study about changes in seven rural institutions in a barrio. People's reactions and responses to the changes were also studied, as well as their perceptions of the causes of change. Significant changes were observed. Population growth, government policies on rural development and the oil crisis were regarded as the reasons for the transformation. Changes in four institutions: bayanihan, credit, landlord-tenant relationship and farmer-landless laborer relationship were perceived to be disadvantageous, while changes in the source of technology, barrio organization and mechanization in the barrio were generally accepted.

PEASANT PARTICIPATION IN CONTEMPORARY PHILIPPINE SOCIETY

TIMOTEO G. BUTALID, S.J.

The paper critiques the growth of an economy which has been accompanied by increasing poverty. The author offers the process of conscientization as an avenue for effective action by the community in the face of constraints to peasant participation in the formulation (and revision) of social political structures.

IRRIGATION ORGANIZATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION:
THE NIA EXPERIENCE.

CARLOS D. ISLES

The paper discusses the experience of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) with the participatory approach to irrigation development. The paper elaborates on how participation is operationalized in the context of irrigation as well as obstacles to this participation. The main obstacle to the participatory approach is the inability of government machineries to make a radical shift in their procedures in order to make participation a living reality.

KAINGINEROS AS FOCUS OF DEVELOPMENT

ANACLETO C. DULDULAO

The paper focuses attention on the different types of kaingineros and the strategies which may be adopted in order to involve them in a more positive role in national development. Agroforestry is seen as the most viable means of promoting the welfare of kaingineros, and at the same time getting them as partners in natural resources development.

THE SITUATION OF RURAL WORKERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

RAFAEL S. ESPIRITU

The paper discusses the conditions in rural areas and points to rural poverty as the most fundamental problem of the national economy. The author argues that rural poverty results from the unequal distribution of rural income and the low level of rural income arising from a very high incidence of underdevelopment and low wages. The paper describes the different types of rural workers and assesses government programs and policies towards this group.

PHILIPPINE LAND REFORM POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

BLONDIE R. PO

The paper traces the history of land reform and the effects on the peasantry during the American colonial period, the post colonial period and more recently, the land reform program of the 70s. The author states that in scope and implementation, the land reform program has been compromised. The Philippines continues to be primarily a foreign-dominated agricultural export economy spelling the failure of genuine massive industrialization while spurring further land alienation and land concentration. As a result there is an accelerated dispossession from land and improvization for the rural population. What is needed, the author states is for peasants to assume control of their productive assets and resources.

CAPITALIST PENETRATION INTO AGRICULTURE:
SOME ISSUES ON LAND CONCENTRATION AND CLASS DIFFERENTIATION

TEMARIO C. RIVERA

The paper highlights some of the forms that capitalism has assumed in its penetration of agriculture and the forms of subordination of the labor process, specifically of the small landholders in export plantations such as the banana industry. The paper shows how multinational agribusiness, by means of the concentration and centralization of large, contiguous lands for large-scale agriculture or means of contractor relationships with small growers, have penetrated the countryside. With the contract relationship, the small growers ceases to be an independent commodity producer but instead entrapped in a vortex of indebtedness to the company, is severed from the ownership of the means of production.

PEASANT INDEBTEDNESS AND THE PERSISTENCE
OF TRADITIONAL CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

DAPHNE D. ROXAS

An indepth study was conducted in Donsol, Sorsogon to look into the problem of peasant indebtedness and the prevalence of usurious credit practices in the countryside. The study includes findings from interviews of household heads, bank personnel and moneylenders and a survey of government documents and records. The study observes that the worsening poverty in rural areas and the persistence of exploitative and semi-feudal economic institutions are partly a result of the reliance of farmers on traditional sources of credit - landlords, compradors, and other private moneylenders.

ANG SENSURO SA BINUKLUTAN AT ANG KATAYUAN
NG MALILIIT NA MANGINGISDA

LAURA L. SAMSON

The paper presents an ethnographic study of a particular fishing operation in Botoloan, Zambales. The paper explores the factors of production, economic as well as human, which come together among small fishing households in the village. The study elaborates the origins of the fishing operation, arrangements among the laborers, how earnings are calculated, the management of the operation, and the fishing method itself.