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AGRARIAN REFORM HISTORY



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

Provide additional income and food security to farmers and their communities as well as to come up with globally competitive farm-based products through the Gulayan Magsasakang Agraryo.

Usher new educational opportunities to farmers children and dependents through the Diosdado Macapagal Scholar Program.

Sustain support services delivery by doubling the number of barangays covered by ARCs.

Heighten agrarian case resolution by introducing a quota system to compel adjudicators to work faster on agrarian cases and train farmers into paralegals. The presence of paralegals will assist DAR in effectively addressing the challenge of swift and just delivery of agrarian reform.

Sources:

BATAS: The Paralegals' Guidebook on Agrarian Reform Laws-Volume 2

Manual on Agrarian Reform Modules

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 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.
- ◇ **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 is the program strategy of the present DAR administration in CARP Implementation?

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 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) both in ARCs and non-ARCs.

Why is history of Philippine agrarian reform important?

The Philippine agrarian reform history teaches us valuable lessons and insights about the past agrarian reform programs and the peasant initiatives that contributes to the evolution of the Philippine agrarian reform program from the pre-colonial times to the present administration.

Pre-Colonial Times (Before 16th Century)

What was the type of land ownership during the pre-Spanish time and how was it cultivated?

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

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.

How do they practice mutual sharing of resources?

Everyone in the *barangay* regardless of status had access on the land and mutually share resources and the fruits of their labor.

They believed in and practiced the concept of “stewardship” where relationship between man and nature is important.

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 of 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.

Tapped private investments for the agrarian reform through the MAGKASAKA

Set up a Farmer’s center at DAR to ensure sectoral participation in program development and implementation.

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

Fiscal constraints

Alleged issue of uninstalled beneficiaries

Inter and intra ARBs conflicts due to arguments for control over negotiations with prospective joint venture partners

Low level of capability among agrarian reform beneficiaries

President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo **(2001 – Present)**

What is 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.

Inability to monitor the transferring and selling of land titles to new owners

Rampant illegal conversion of lands

Joseph Ejercito Estrada (1998-2000)

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
- ◇ 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?

Forged new alliances among countries implementing agrarian reform through the **International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD)**

Increased the percentage of privately owned lands acquired and distributed

SPANISH ERA (1521-1896)

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 to five hectares of land to cultivate. The *pueblo* agriculture practiced no share cropper class or landless class.

Can the native families 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.

What were the benefits and limitations of this *pueblo* system?

The *pueblo* system was beneficial to the natives because: (1) land distribution was uniform; (2) there were no sharecropper or landless tillers; (3) and new tools and techniques were introduced to improve their productivity. However, these lead to the abusive Spanish authorities/friars to collect more tributes that greatly decreased the share of the native Filipinos of their own harvest. They further required them to provide forced service that made their life even more difficult.

How was agricultural tenancy originated?

Through the Laws of the Indies, the Spanish crown awarded vast tracts of land to wit:

- ◇ Friar lands for the religious orders;
- ◇ *Repatriamentos* for lands granted to the Spanish military as a reward for their service; and
- ◇ *Encomienda* a large tracts of land given to Spaniards (*encomiendero*) 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 does the *hacienda* system evolved?

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 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.

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 No. 107 of the President of the Philippines dated March 23, 1993

What were some of the challenges did the Ramos administration encountered in implementing CARP?

Failure to enforce installment of some farmers beneficiaries on awarded lands

Formula developed for land valuation was unacceptable by landowners despite the measures to change it and increase the value of lands.

Alleged slowness in the acquisition and distribution of privately owned lands

Alleged lack of consultation on policy formulation

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 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.

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 vandalas* system was practiced wherein tillers were made to compulsory 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 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 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 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.

Does 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*)

Inter-agency coordination problems

Allegation that EO 229 opened the door for politicians and landlords to shortcut processes in CARP implementation

Allegation on misuse of foreign funds intended for CARP projects

Allegation on lack of political will, leadership and genuine commitment to implement the program

Fidel V. Ramos (1992-1998)

What were the key accomplishments of this administration?

The Ramos administration is recognized for the following:

Brought back support of key stakeholders of CARP.

Bridge certain policy gaps on land acquisition and distribution, land valuation, and case resolution among others.

Enhanced the program's operating systems

Strengthened the capabilities of the DAR bureaucracy

Strengthened the program's role in reducing rural poverty.

Tapped more resources for the program.

Introduction of the present adjudication system

Program of support services for farmer beneficiaries to become productive and transform them into entrepreneurs

Promotion of livelihood and agro-industrial projects

Support and active involvement in program implementation of key stakeholders

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

Failure to address the loopholes of CARP particularly for land valuation, retention limits, coverage, exemption/exclusion, commercial farming, and stock distribution options

Absence of clear guidelines on land use conversion

Absence of measures to protect the rights of the tribal communities over their ancestral domain

Major budgetary shortfall of Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF)

Many changes of leadership in DAR which led to lack of continuity in priority programs

Inability to distribute the prioritized private agricultural lands

Land valuation controversies

AMERICAN ERA (1898-1935)

What initiated the Americans to focus on land reform?

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.

How did they overcome the Treaty of Paris?

The Treaty of Paris was a formal agreement of the transfer of rule of all Spanish colonies including the Philippines to the United States. It has specific provisions that protect the properties established during the Spanish era such as private establishments and religious institutions.

This Treaty was their major difficulty in implementing land reform. The best solution they did was to negotiate for the purchase of the friar lands and resell these to their cultivators on an installment basis.

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 the 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.

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

Recognition of agrarian reforms as a worthwhile social investment

Improvement of the status of tenant-tillers

and corn lands for coverage provided for the manner of payment by the farmer-beneficiaries and the mode of compensation (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, 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 (EO):

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.

Were there other agrarian laws introduced by the Americans aside from the Torrens system?

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.

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 provisions 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.

Friar Land Act or Act. No. 1120 provided the administrative and temporary leasing and selling of friar lands to its tillers.

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.

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 helped the farmers situation?

No. It further worsened the land ownership situation, wherein there was no limit on the size of landholdings once 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 put under tenancy.

How did the peasant groups reacted to this situation?

Widespread peasant uprisings were held, headed by the armed peasants' groups known as *Colorum* and *Sakdalista* of Luzon and Northeastern Mindanao respectively. These uprisings resulted to 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.

Commonwealth Years (1935-1942)

What were the tenancy and land ownership cultivation like during this period?

- ◇ Contrasting economic and political lifestyle between tenant and the landlord. Landlords became richer and powerful while the tenants were deprived of their rights and became poorer.

Corazon C. Aquino (1986-1982)

Why did Pres. Aquino put AR as cornerstone of her administration?

She believed that "The stewardship of the land that the landlords were said to have neglected shall now pass, as the law is implemented, to the tillers.

That stewardship should weigh as heavily on the many as it did on the few. The same bottom line applies to them: the wisest use of the land for the greatest generation of wealth for themselves and for the entire nation". (Speech during the signing of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Bill, June 10, 1988)

What AR legislations and issuances passed under her 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. (The Record and Legacy of the Aquino Administration in AR: Executive Summary, Planning Service, DAR)

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

Why was President Marcos' agrarian reform program 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 suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus.
- ◇ Implementation of the programs were not included in the provision of PD 27.
- ◇ Excluding about 3.5 Million landless and tenant farmers under plantation crops.

- ◇ Increasing number of absentee landowners. They preferred to go after new opportunities in the cities and left their farms idle or to the management of "katiwala". 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.

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.

Government Initiatives on Agrarian Reform

Ferdinand E. Marcos (1965-1986)

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

Presidential Decree 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 can this Agrarian Reform Program help the farmers?

His 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. His 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 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
- ◇ 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. (BLAD-DAR Official Records)

Manuel L. Quezon (1935-1944)

What were the laws on AR enacted during this Administration?

- ◇ *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 the rest of the majority 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?

The following are his social justice program which focused on:

Purchase of large haciendas to be divided and sold to tenants

Establishment of the National Rice and Corn Corporation (NARICC)

Assigning of public defenders to assist peasants in court battles for their right to till the land.

Setting up of the Court of Industrial Relations (CIR), to exercise jurisdiction over disagreements arising from agri-workers and landowner relationship.

Amendment of the Rice Tenancy Act (Act No. 4054) which had a built-in section (Sec. 29) hindering its full implementation.

National Land Settlement Administration (NLSA), created through Commonwealth Act. No. 441, to continue the Homestead Program.

Tenancy problems were covered through CA Nos. 461 and 608.

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.

Diosdaso Macapagal (1961-1965)

Why was President Diosdado Macapagal 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.

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?

Creation of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA), a government agency formed to provide warehouse facilities and assist farmers market their products.

Organization of Farmers Cooperatives and Marketing Associations (FACOMAs).

Resettlement program pursued through National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) or RA No. 1160 of 1954, established to pursue the government's resettlement program and to accelerate 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 homelots and farmlands settlement.

Establishment of an Agricultural and Industrial Bank to provide easier terms in applying for homestead and other farmland.

What hindered the implementation of land reform under his administration?

Budget allocation for the settlement program made it impossible for the program to succeed;

Landlords did not comply with the Rice Share Tenancy Act;

Outbreak of the World War II; and

Widespread peasant uprising against abusive landlords

Manuel Roxas (1946-1948)

What happened to the estates took over by the HUKBALAHAP during the Japanese occupation?

These estates were confiscated and returned to its owners. Because of this, some of the farmer-tenants preferred to join the HUK movement rather than go back and serve their landlords under the same conditions prior to World War II.

What were the key accomplishments during the Roxas administration?

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.

Did these lands help farmers become productive?

No. Due to lack of support facilities from the government, 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 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.
- ◇ 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