



Community Infrastructure Development Support Project: Its Effects on the Community's Productivity in Tacurong City

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Abstract

This project was being implemented by the Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), aimed to support sustainable rural development in Mindanao through the improvement of the well-being of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) through increased income, living conditions, and regional peace building contributions. Addressing infrastructure development in Mindanao's major agricultural regions, the project aimed at local development priorities to increase community productivity. It was piloted in Barangay Baras and Barangay Upper Katungal in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, where its effect was evaluated through a survey of 353 randomly chosen ARBs and community members carried out during the period of calendar year 2024–2025. Data collection employed a flexible, descriptive questionnaire method to capture varied community experiences. The majority of the respondents were from small households, possessed college education, and were at a moderate income level. Evidence indicated that important infrastructure elements—farm-to-market roads, water systems, and post-harvest facilities—were greatly implemented, while social services were given big support. The interventions resulted in very satisfactory improvements in community productivity, with good gains in business partnerships, economic growth, and rural infrastructure. The success of the program was supplemented by best practices embraced by LGU Tacurong such as financial sustainability, efficient use of local resources, integrated delivery of public services, participatory planning, and transparency. Strong positive correlation resulted from the quality of Italian-supported projects and enhanced productivity of communities, highlighting the high effectiveness of support and the promise of increased potential impact.

Keywords: DAR–Italian, Infrastructure, Community Productivity, Effectiveness, Tacurong City

Introduction

The Italian government has launched the Community Infrastructure Development Support (CIDS) Project initiative to assist communities in effectively allocating their resources for infrastructure development. This program likely offers technical guidance, skill enhancement, and monetary aid to municipal authorities or community groups to plan, execute, and oversee infrastructure projects (Italian Agency for Development

Cooperation, 2014).

The program enhances various aspects of infrastructure, such as transportation networks, water distribution systems, educational institutions, and medical centers. It aims to maximize the efficient allocation of resources to foster long-term growth and elevate the living standards of individuals in targeted areas. These initiatives typically involve joint efforts between Italian governmental bodies, regional administrations, and diverse interested parties to guarantee that projects are aligned with community requirements and adhere to principles of sustainable development. Additionally, the CIDSP may precede initiatives that tackle developmental obstacles or focus on disadvantaged groups to ensure comprehensive and fair access to crucial amenities and infrastructure (Shehzad, 2023).

Globally, foreign assistance plays a crucial role in supporting the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Support Project by providing financial resources, technical expertise, capacity-building, technology transfer, and policy support. By developing international partnerships and resources, these programs can achieve a greater impact and contribute to the holistic development of rural communities (Corwin, 2023).

Internationally, foreign assistance is essential for empowering small-scale farmers, enhancing farm-level livelihood, and implementing sustainable rural development. It is because foreign aid addresses important challenges and barriers affecting small-scale agricultural producers in a way instrumental in poverty reduction, food security, and inclusive growth in agrarian communities (Cheeseman, Swedlund, & O'Brien-Udry, 2024).

The Italian Assistance to the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Support Project (IARCDSP) symbolizes cooperation between the Italian and Philippine governments. Funded by the Italian government and implemented by the Philippine Government through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), this foreign-assisted project testifies to international solidarity in fostering sustainable rural development (Shehzad, 2023).

Mindanao is considered the country's agricultural heartland. It plays an important role in the nation's food security and economic vitality. The region has fertile soil, abundant water resources, and a favorable tropical climate, which allows it to meet more than 40% of the country's food requirements and contributes significantly to the national food trade (Aguillon-Depalubos & Bayod, 2023).

The initiative seeks to foster comprehensive growth among Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), with the twin goals of enhancing their earnings and elevating their standard of living. Additionally, it strives to make a significant contribution to the ongoing peace efforts in Mindanao, particularly in regions previously impacted by conflict. The program endeavors to expedite the restoration and advancement of these communities through concrete actions and focused strategies, offering them a clear path toward enduring peace and economic well-being (Undong, 2023).

The execution of infrastructure projects follows the IARCDSP infrastructure guideline, which outlines implementation procedures to assist project personnel and partners in meeting specific requirements for infrastructure project design, execution, and maintenance. This guideline is crucial and advantageous for project management units, technical support teams, and local government engineering staff developing proposals and engaging stakeholders. It provides policy directions and project procedures for implementing infrastructure projects in ARCs within Sultan Kudarat.

Moreover, conducting a research study in the City of Tacurong, particularly in Barangay Baras and Barangay Upper Katungal, brings significant importance for these barangays designated as recipients of assistance under Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Projects, thus making it focused on examining the impact of infrastructure development on community productivity. The research can provide the necessary information about how the projects funded by the DAR Italian Assistance have affected the productivity and welfare of the people residing in those communities by zeroing in on these specific areas.

Further, assessing the program at the barangay level would give a more detailed insight into the challenges, successes, and opportunities surrounding rural development initiatives, thereby guiding targeted interventions and policy recommendations that could enhance community outcomes in Barangay Baras and Barangay Upper Katungal.

Research Questions

The study assessed the CIDS Projects and their effects on the Community's Productivity in Tacurong City. It addressed the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1. size of family;
 - 1.2. educational attainment; and
 - 1.3. monthly income?
2. To what extent is the Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects in terms of:
 - 2.1. farm-to-market road;
 - 2.2. potable water system;
 - 2.3. post-harvest facilities; and
 - 2.4. bulk of social service facilities?
3. To what level is community's productivity in the identified community is CIDS Projects:
 - 3.1. business partnership;
 - 3.2. economic growth; and
 - 3.3. rural infrastructure?
4. Is there a significant relationship between the CIDS Projects Italian Assistance and the community's productivity?
5. What are the best practices of LGU Tacurong as the recipient of the CIDS Projects?

Methods (Materials and Methods)

A descriptive-correlational research design was utilized to acquire data from the respondents regarding the assessment of the CIDS Projects and its effects on community productivity in Tacurong City. Data were collected from 353 residents of Tacurong City coming from Barangay Baras, and Barangay Upper Katungal. They were grouped into direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries and the project implementers

A four-part survey questionnaire was developed based on the completion reports and manual of the DAR-Italian Assistance to ARCDs Projects. (1) Respondent's Profile. (2) Extent of the Community Infrastructure Development Support (CIDS) project, (3) Level of Community's Productivity in the identified Community is the CID projects and (4) Best Practices of LGU-Tacurong as the recipient of CIDS projects. The questionnaire underwent validation by experts, followed by a pilot test to refine the instrument before distribution.

The survey was conducted over four weeks, to ensure wide participation among members. Statistical tools such as frequency, weighted mean and standard deviation, and Z-test were employed to analyze the data.

Results and Discussion

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS:

Table 1: Size of the Family

Size	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	212	60.06%
6-10	115	32.58%
11 and above	26	7.36%
Total	353	100%

Most of the respondents, 60.06%, are from 1-5 member families.

Table 2: Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
College Graduate	124	35.13%
College Undergraduate	89	25.21%
Tech./Voc. Courses	25	7.08 %
High School Graduate	86	24.36%
High School Undergraduate	23	6.52%
Elementary Graduate	6	1.70%
Total	353	100%

Table 2 shows that 35.13% of respondents are college graduates. This means many of the respondents have completed college, which can lead to better jobs and higher incomes.

Table 3: Monthly Income

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
Below ₱ 3, 000.00	8	2.27%
₱ 3,100.00 – ₱ 5, 000.00	50	14.16%
₱ 6,000.00 – ₱ 10,000.00	158	44.76%
₱ 11,000.00 – ₱15, 000.00	75	21.25%
₱ 16, 000.00 – ₱ 20,000.00	31	8.78%
higher than ₱ 25 000.00	31	8.78%
Total	353	100%

Table 3 shows a big difference in the monthly income of the respondents.

Table 4: Extent of the Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects from the Italian Assistance in Farm-to-Market Road.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Strategically prioritize farm-to-market road projects for maximum impact.	4.35	0.82	Very Great Extent
2. Ensure sufficient resources are allocated to improve farm-to-market roads effectively.	4.27	0.81	Very Great Extent
3. Dramatically increase the accessibility of farm-to-market roads for all community members.	4.23	0.86	Very Great Extent
4. Enhance the physical condition and durability of farm-to-market roads.	4.21	0.87	Very Great Extent
5. Decrease travel time for farmers, facilitating easier transportation of goods.	4.22	0.89	Very Great Extent
6. Grant farmers access to previously inaccessible agricultural areas.	4.25	0.85	Very Great Extent
7. Lower transportation and hauling costs, benefiting both farmers and consumers.	4.24	0.87	Very Great Extent
8. Facilitate access to markets and essential social services for rural communities.	4.27	0.86	Very Great Extent
9. Enhance the interconnectedness of communities through improved farm-to-market road networks.	4.26	0.84	Very Great Extent
10. Streamline the delivery of social services and enhance transactional efficiency for farmers.	4.35	0.78	Very Great Extent
Mean	4.26	0.86	Very Great Extent

Table 4 shows the Extent of the Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects in Farm-to-Market Road.

Table 5: Extent of the Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects in Potable Water System.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Effectively prioritize the improvement of potable water systems.	4.12	0.85	Great Extent
2. Allocate resources adequately for the enhancement of potable water systems.	4.14	0.87	Great Extent
3. Significantly improve the accessibility of potable water for all community members.	4.18	0.88	Great Extent
4. Noticeably enhances the quality of potable water available to the community.	4.20	0.85	Very Great Extent
5. Efficiently reduce instances of waterborne diseases within the community.	4.28	0.79	Very Great Extent
6. Provide reliable maintenance for potable water systems.	4.23	0.76	Very Great Extent
7. Effectively decrease the cost burden associated with accessing clean water.	4.20	0.81	Very Great Extent
8. Ensure equitable distribution of potable water resources within the community.	4.21	0.83	Very Great Extent
9. Greatly benefit the health and well-being of community members through improved access to clean water.	4.21	0.84	Very Great Extent
10. Demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability in managing potable water resources.	4.21	0.84	Very Great Extent
Mean	4.20	0.83	Very Great Extent

Table 5 displays the respondents' opinions regarding the potable water system projects.

Table 6: Extent of the Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects in Post-harvest Facilities.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Prioritize the establishment of post-harvest facilities for maximum impact.	4.26	0.83	Very Great Extent
2. Ensure adequate allocation of resources for constructing and maintaining post-harvest facilities.	4.17	0.86	Great Extent
3. Substantially improve farmers' access to post-harvest facilities.	4.12	0.82	Great Extent
4. Enhance the efficiency of post-harvest operations.	4.18	0.80	Great Extent
5. Provide consistent maintenance for post-harvest facilities to ensure functionality.	4.19	0.87	Great Extent
6. Effectively reduce post-harvest losses experienced by farmers.	4.14	0.81	Great Extent
7. Guarantee fair access to post-harvest facilities for all community farmers.	4.25	0.80	Very Great Extent
8. Enhance agricultural productivity by improving post-harvest handling and processing capabilities.	4.25	0.80	Very Great Extent
9. Demonstrate unwavering support for farmers' livelihoods through enhanced post-harvest facilities.	4.22	0.84	Very Great Extent
10. Make significant contributions to community economic development by strengthening post-harvest infrastructure.	4.24	0.82	Very Great Extent
Mean	4.20	0.83	Very Great Extent

Table 6 shows that the highest-rated item in the extent of Post-harvest facility.

Table 7. Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects in Bulk of Social Service Facilities.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Effectively prioritize establishing social service facilities to meet community needs.	4.16	0.88	Great Extent
2. Allocate resources adequately for the construction and maintenance of social service facilities	4.09	0.91	Great Extent
3. Significantly enhance the accessibility of social service facilities for all members.	4.08	0.86	Great Extent
4. Noticeably improve the quality and range of social services available.	4.14	0.83	Great Extent
5. Ensure reliable maintenance of social service facilities for sustained functionality.	4.12	0.87	Great Extent
6. Effectively address diverse social service needs.	4.08	0.83	Great Extent
7. Ensure equitable access to social service facilities for all members.	4.10	0.88	Great Extent
8. Greatly benefit overall well-being and development through enhanced social services.	4.18	0.85	Great Extent
9. Demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting vulnerable populations through accessible social service facilities.	4.19	0.85	Great Extent
10. Contribute significantly to community cohesion and resilience by strengthening social service infrastructure.	4.17	0.87	Great Extent
Mean	4.13	0.86	Great Extent

Table 7 shows that the community development support projects extent from the Italian Assistance in bulk of social service facilities.

Table 8: Level of Community Productivity in the Identified Community as Impact of the Community Infrastructure Developments Support Projects in Business Partnership.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Enhances collaborative partnerships between local businesses and international entities.	4.11	0.86	Highly Productive
2. Strengthen networking opportunities for community businesses, leading to increased market access and visibility.	4.13	0.87	Highly Productive
3. Facilitates the establishment of joint ventures and strategic alliances among local enterprises.	4.07	0.85	Highly Productive
4. Improves communication and cooperation between community businesses and government agencies.	4.11	0.88	Highly Productive
5. The program has minimally influenced the formation of partnerships between community businesses and non-profit organizations.	4.12	0.83	Highly Productive
6. Effectively support capacity-building initiatives to enhance partnership effectiveness and sustainability.	4.10	0.79	Highly Productive
7. Adequately promoted knowledge sharing and skills transfer among business partners within the community.	4.14	0.82	Highly Productive
8. Foster innovation and creativity through collaborative efforts among business partners through enhanced social services.	4.06	0.86	Highly Productive
9. Address challenges related to trust and transparency in business partnerships within the community.	4.06	0.89	Highly Productive
10. The program has negligibly impacted the overall quality and longevity of business partnerships formed within the community.	4.08	0.89	Highly Productive
Mean	4.09	0.85	Highly Productive

Table 8 shows that the level of community productivity in the identified community as impact of the community infrastructure developments support projects in business partnership.

Table 9: The Level of Community Productivity in the Identified Community as Impact of the Community Infrastructure Developments Support Projects in Economic Growth.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Production has increased due to infrastructure support, leading to strong economic growth.	4.12	0.86	Highly Productive
2. Infrastructure support has played a crucial role in boosting community productivity.	4.09	0.88	Highly Productive
3. The community's productivity has surged, contributing to economic growth.	4.07	0.89	Highly Productive
4. Enhance community productivity and accelerate economic expansion.	4.16	0.88	Highly Productive
5. Driven impressive economic growth by boosting community productivity.	4.16	0.84	Highly Productive
6. Uplift community productivity, fostering strong economic growth.	4.18	0.83	Highly Productive
7. Boost community productivity, ensuring robust and sustained economic growth.	4.15	0.87	Highly Productive
8. It flourishes due to successful infrastructure support, driving economic growth.	4.13	0.85	Highly Productive
9. Led to a remarkable increase in community productivity, fostering thriving economic conditions.	4.09	0.86	Highly Productive
10. Fuel significant economic growth by enhancing community productivity.	4.09	0.87	Highly Productive
Mean	4.12	0.86	Highly Productive

Table 9 indicates that the respondents are positive about contributing to community infrastructure development support projects toward economic growth, with high satisfaction levels in most aspects.

Table 10: Level of Community Productivity in the Identified Community as Impact of the Community Infrastructure Developments Support Projects in Rural Infrastructure.

Item	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. Production has increased with infrastructure support, driving strong economic growth.	4.09	0.88	Highly Productive
2. Infrastructure support has crucially boosted community productivity.	4.08	0.89	Highly Productive
3. Community productivity has surged, aiding economic growth.	4.00	0.85	Highly Productive
4. Enhance community productivity to accelerate economic expansion.	4.06	0.86	Highly Productive
5. Drive impressive economic growth by boosting community productivity.	4.12	0.83	Highly Productive
6. Uplift community productivity for strong economic growth.	4.08	0.84	Highly Productive
7. Boost community productivity for sustained economic growth	4.11	0.88	Highly Productive
8. Flourish due to successful infrastructure support, driving economic growth.	4.04	0.89	Highly Productive
9. Remarkable increase in community productivity fosters thriving economic conditions.	4.09	0.87	Highly Productive
10. Fuel significant economic growth by enhancing community productivity.	4.08	0.89	Highly Productive
Mean	4.07	0.87	Highly Productive

Table 10 shows the level of community productivity in the identified community as impact of the community infrastructure developments support projects in Rural Infrastructure.

Table 11. Correlation between the Extent of the Community Development Support Projects and the Level of Community Productivity in the Identified Community as Impact of the Community Infrastructure Developments Support Projects in the City of Tacurong.

	N	Mean	SD	r	Significance	Interpretation
Extent of the community structure	353	4.203	0.694			
Development support projects						
From the Italian assistance				.933	.000	Very Strong/high Correlation
Level of community productivity	353	4.100	0.745			
In the identified community as						
Impact on the community						
Infrastructure developments						
Support projects						

.05 level of Significance

Table 11 indicates a very high and highly significant relationship between Extent of the Community Development Support Projects and community productivity in Tacurong, with an r-value of 0.933 and p-value of 0.000.

The Best Practices for Choosing LGU Tacurong as a Recipient of the Community Infrastructure Development Support Projects

Italian Assistance Development Support Projects have contributed considerably to LGU Tacurong's infrastructural growth. Tacurong's adoption of best practices fully played essential roles in fulfilling successful projects' aims, which increased community productivity, responded to local needs, and obtained sustainable development. (1) Commitment to financing and maintaining infrastructure projects is among the best practices. (2) Another best practice is counterpart resources, where Tacurong has successfully leveraged local resources and staff to ensure projects are specifically designed to meet the community's needs. (3) Tacurong is public service, which is the central agenda in its prioritization of infrastructures. (4) Participatory planning and consultation are another major practice in Tacurong's project implementation. (5) Transparency and accountability in implementation are the prime practices that guarantee that resources are utilized effectively

and stakeholders are kept in the loop. (6) In addition, the promise of good governance, spearheaded by leaders of integrity and accountability, is necessary to guarantee the long-term success of infrastructure projects. (7) Lastly, LGU Tacurong's success using the Community Infrastructure Development Projects demonstrates the value of best practices in infrastructure development.

Conclusion

This research presented strong findings regarding the effects to the community's productivity in Tacurong City, especially those undertaken under the Community Infrastructure Development Support (CIDS) Program. The respondents' demographic profile primarily small families with moderate income and college education. It indicates a community strong enough to participate meaningfully in development initiatives. The general perception of the projects was generally very favorable, particularly in critical infrastructure segments like farm-to-market roads, water supply systems, and post-harvest facilities. These projects were rated consistently as "Very Great Extent," which implies that they responded to basic community requirements and made significant contributions to transportation, health, and agricultural productivity improvements. Although the provision of social services remained rated highly, it was slightly lower, indicating a requirement for more emphasis on service quality, accessibility, and long-term sustainability. For community productivity, the findings were equally strong, with high ratings in business partnerships, economic growth, and rural infrastructure. Further improvement can be made by enhancing strategic partnerships and tying development objectives more closely to local entrepreneurial and agricultural systems to drive productivity gains to the fullest extent. Tacurong City's success could be due to the implementation of core governance practices such as strategic financial investment, use of local resources, integrated public delivery of services, and participatory planning. These practices, among other things, not only guaranteed that the projects were relevant and effective but also promoted local ownership, accountability, and sustainability. Most importantly, the research established a highly significant and strong correlation between the level of project implementation and community productivity. The high correlation indicates the efficiency of the projects in promoting socio-economic development. Nevertheless, the relatively small difference between project implementation and productivity scores indicates that there is still potential for improvement. Concentrated efforts at scaling up project coverage, enhancing implementation effectiveness, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems are critical to maintaining and scaling these improvements. Over-all, the projects have had a measurable and significant effect on Tacurong City's community infrastructure and productivity. Building on this achievement, future activities should focus on sustainability, continuous improvement, participatory planning, and community participation to make sure that development gains are both equitable and sustainable.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The researchers of this study ensured full compliance with ethical standards in conducting this research. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents before their participation, and they were given the freedom to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. The anonymity of all respondents was strictly maintained, and their personal information was kept confidential in accordance with data privacy regulations. The well-being of the participants was safeguarded throughout the study, ensuring that no harm, discomfort, or undue pressure was exerted upon them.

Furthermore, the researchers affirm that there were no conflicts of interest in the conduct of this study. Plagiarism was strictly avoided, and all sources were properly cited in accordance with academic integrity guidelines. The interpretation of the findings was conducted without bias, ensuring objectivity and reliability. The results of this study are used solely for research purposes, contributing to the academic and practical discourse on Community Infrastructure Development Support Project's effects on community's productivity in Tacurong City.

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