

Inroads into the Barrio

US Assistance to the
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Philippines





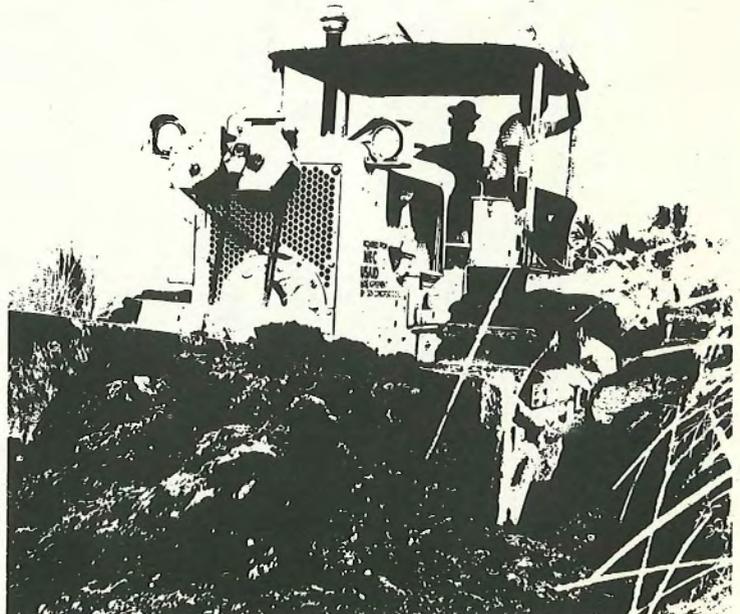
In the Philippines, 75% of the 43 million population till the soil. They eke out a meager existence, each farmer working about 2 hectares of riceland. From the income from this small plot he must feed, clothe and shelter a large family. When there is drought or flood, his family go hungry. Sleep comes early because there is no electricity. His income of around \$200 a year is usually indebted to a middleman. Unless there is change, this will also be the lot of his children.

Provincial Development Assistance Project

One of the foremost efforts to improve the lot of the rural dweller is the Provincial Development Assistance Project, PDAP. This is a joint program of the Philippine and U.S. Governments. It grew out of pilot projects in the mid-Sixties which were based on the age-old Filipino principle of "bayanihan" meaning self-help. Specialists taught the farmer how to improve his rice production and made the provincial governments more aware of the areas of need and how the problems could be met. The pilot projects, which covered 2 provinces, have now been expanded to 20 provinces representing over 40% of the total Philippine population.

PDAP consists of three major components:

- PDAP staff supervised by Col. Gregorio Vigilar of the Office of the Executive Secretary to the President.
- The Office and Staff of Thomas L. Rose, the USAID Assistant Director for Provincial Development.
- The Office and Staff of the 20 Provincial Governors.





The goal of the project is to improve the quality of rural life by speeding up the development and delivery of essential services in the provinces. PDAP provides both technical assistance and material resources. A total program has been designed to teach local government officials how to plan and implement development programs and make efficient use of available revenue resources.

There are four program components:

1. Provincial planning, programming and organization
2. Infrastructure improvement
3. Fiscal Management improvement
4. Development of effective communication and coordination among local and national government agencies.



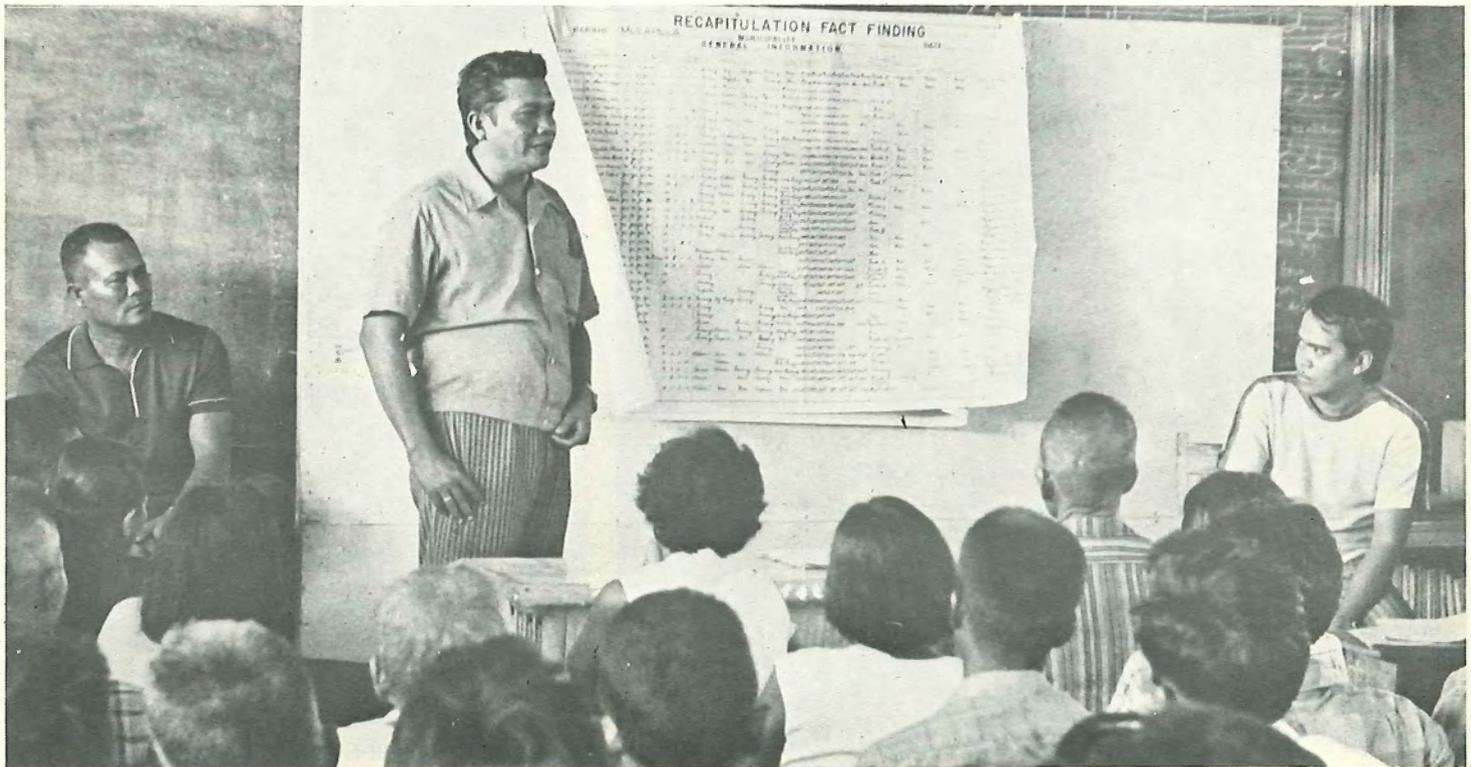
Progress meeting of PDAP and USAID Local Development staff.

1. PDAP staff on a survey in Iloilo.
2. PDAP/USAID staff meet in Misamis Oriental.
3. PDAP progress meeting in Misamis Oriental.
4. Community Development meeting in Passi, Iloilo.



Provincial Planning

To strengthen provincial planning, PDAP sponsors seminars and training programs which help local government officials learn how to plan, finance and conduct development operations. By July 1973, nearly 750 provincial government officials and technicians had participated in these programs. Training in the United States has also been made available through US assistance to PDAP for more than 30 officials so far.





Rural Infrastructure

This part of the program is designed to improve rural road systems which will help farmers market their crops and open up rural areas for healthy commercial development.

This development provides a stronger revenue base for the provincial governments whose resulting increased taxes can be returned to the rural dweller in the form of better services.

Since 1968 over 2,000 kilometers of new and improved roads and bridges have been completed and irrigation systems have also been improved. These projects are labor intensive and provide employment opportunities for many rural dwellers.



Road under construction in Misamis Oriental.



PDAP irrigation projects.





Road building in Misamis Oriental
and bridge construction in Pangasinan.



1. Philippine and AID officials discuss work in progress and plan for the future.
2. Inspecting irrigation work in Iloilo.

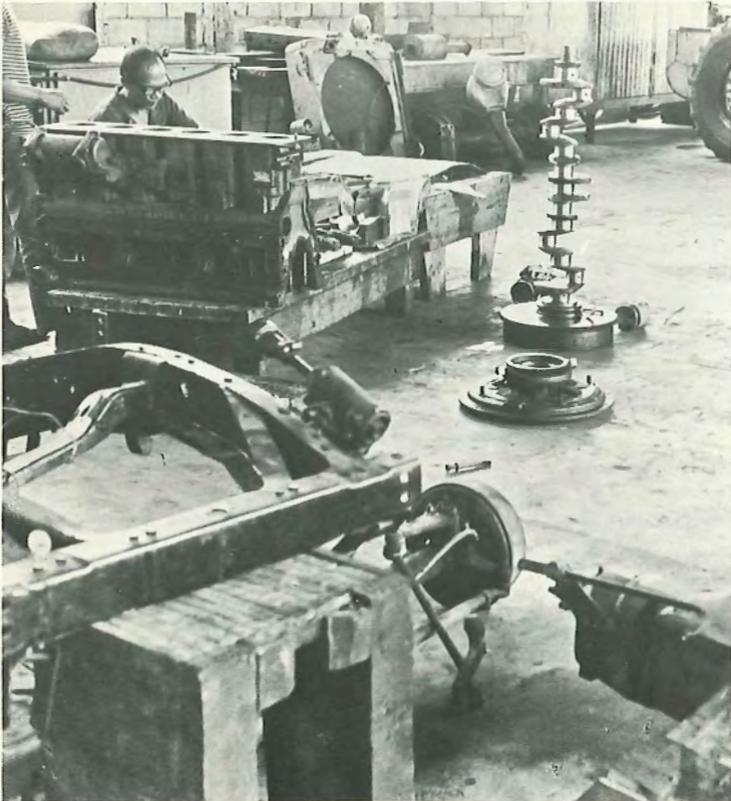


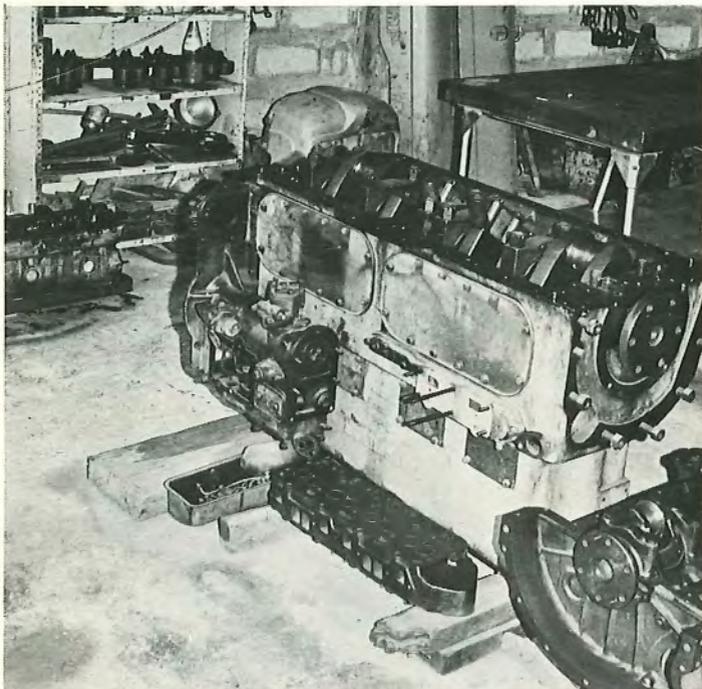
An efficient vehicle and equipment pool is necessary to support such a public works improvement program. Machinery and tools needed by the pool are acquired from US Excess Property. Trucks, road graders, bulldozers, spare parts and other equipment are made available to the project provinces according to their needs.

Well-stocked equipment pool in Misamis Oriental.



Participant provinces make full use of equipment acquired from US Excess Property.





Improved Fiscal Management

Another part of the program aims at developing the provincial governments' ability to improve their fiscal resources. Seminars are conducted to teach tax administration, assessment and collection through improved methods such as streamlined tax mapping and modernized tax record-keeping. Local government personnel are trained to prepare tax maps from aerial photos in order to establish and increase the base for equitable tax assessing.

USAID has also provided training and equipment for the University of the Philippines Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry.



Accurate tax-mapping helps local governments improve their fiscal resources.



Communications

Effective communication between local and national agencies is essential for PDAP to achieve its target goals. To meet this need, PDAP utilizes both American and Filipino Area Development specialists. These specialists assist the local governments in applying modern management principles. They organize local units to carry out PDAP projects and act as the liaison between the little man in the barrio and the provincial and national government and also with international agencies, civic organizations and the private sector.

Flood Rehabilitation

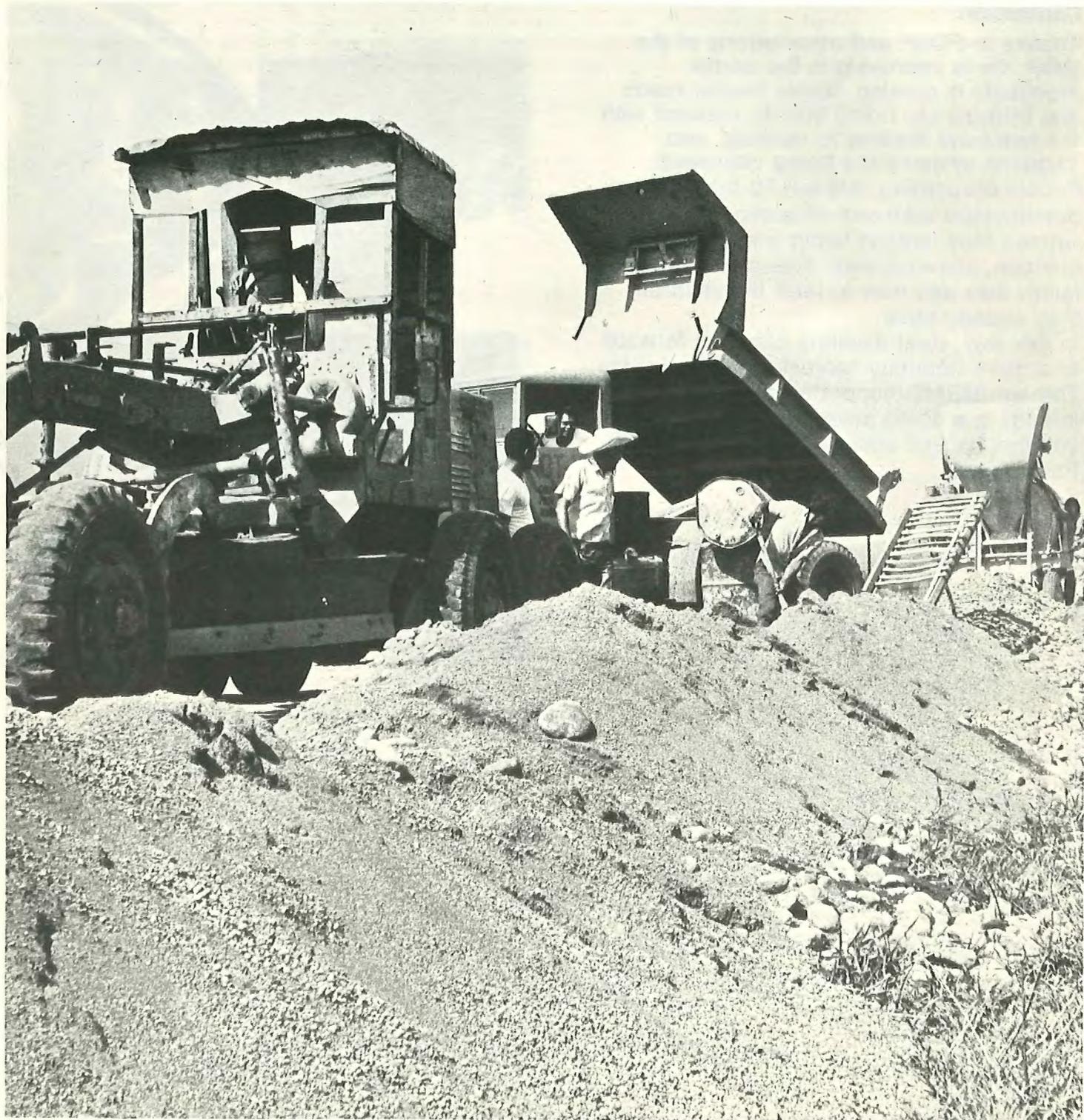
PDAP played a vital role in rebuilding the Rice Bowl Area of Central Luzon which was hard-hit in 1972 by disastrous floods. 3,000 kilometers of roads and more than 200 bridges were damaged or destroyed, one million school children had to cope with make-shift classrooms and a major portion of the areas irrigation system suffered heavy damage.

PDAP was selected by the Philippine Government to administer a portion of the US Congress \$50 million flood rehabilitation grant.

PDAP became responsible for over 240 rehabilitation projects including 750 kms. of rural roads, 134 bridges and the rebuilding of 10 communal irrigation systems.



Road rebuilding in Central Luzon after the devastating 1972 floods.



Conclusion

Thanks to PDAP and other efforts of the GOP, life is improving in the barrio. Electricity is coming. Better feeder roads and bridges are being built to connect with the highways leading to markets, and irrigation systems are being improved.

People are coming to teach. To the men they demonstrate methods of farming. To the women they explain family planning and nutrition, showing them how to limit their family size and how to feed the children they already have.

In this way, rural dwellers can look forward to a more bountiful harvest and a better life. Through USAID-supported programs, inroads are being made into the barrio and into the lives of country people all over the Philippines.



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