Agrarian disputes in the Philippines continue to worsen the situation of farmers. Over the years, agrarian-related violence has taken varying forms. These result in the violation of the right to housing, right to food, livelihood, and other basic freedoms of thousands of farmers and their families.

Particularly, the following case studies give us a glimpse on how these forms of violence restrict farmers use of natural resources, diminish farmer productivity, and disempower communities:

1. **Barangay Cambuga, Mulanay, Quezon**

This case includes over 110 farmer families in 509 hectares of titled timber or forest land. The community was able to implement the Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP) of the government despite the pendency of the case to cancel the spurious title. The said agreement is about to expire and threats to evict farmers are resurfacing amidst the failure of the government to sustain the case of reversion of title.

1. **Barangay Camflora and Barangay Tala, San Andres, Quezon**

This case involves the long-delayed approval of the petition since 2005 of 98 farmers for the coverage under Community-based Forest Management of the 240 hectares of classified timberland they occupy. This excruciatingly slow process of issuing secure tenure in forest land has encouraged new claimants to assert ownership of the land. Harassment has been sustained and a leader of the occupant- petition had been murdered in the process.

In addition, the claimant has initiated meetings with the farmers, using the barangay, and informed the actual occupants that the land will be sold to another entity. With this long-standing concern, farmers are no longer able to work productively in the area due to threats of possible encroachments.

1. **Barangay San Juan, San Narciso, Quezon**

This case demonstrates criminalization of farmers and how the legal system is weaponized to harass and evict farmers. A claimant landowner wants to sell the land to a big business person. The Court of Appeals, however, already rejected the application of the claimants as owners. Notwithstanding such decision, the claimant was still able to file a qualified theft case versus a farming couple that cultivates the land for decades. They were arrested and jailed as a result of the case. Currently, 11 more farmers have been charged with the same criminal cases and may now also suffer loss of freedom. Aside from losing their freedoms, criminalized farmers also bear tremendous economic pressure due to out-of-the-pocket expenses for litigation expenses. Thus, their poverty deepens.

1. **Barangay Rosario, Mauban, Quezon**

Activities of corporation threaten farmers’ peaceful and long-term possession of land. In this case, a corporation using fictitious certifications and titles is exerting various forms of harassment and intimidation to farmers to establish a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). 450 farming families are affected by the proposed SEZ to be built in a 1,700-hectare area. Aside from deception and intimidation, farmers demand for the renewal of their CBFMP hangs in the balance due to the SEZ.

1. **Barangay San Roque, San Manuel, Pangasinan**

Affecting around 30 farmer-families, 100 hectares of land were targeted by an unknown investor for a solar farm project. The farmers in the 14 hectares within the 100 hectares are being subjected to various forms of harassment including threats of eviction. Worse, the claimant was aided by the barangay captain and the town mayor in pressuring farmers to vacate the land. However, records obtained by farmers from the Land Registration Authority (LRA) show that the land is not titled.

Despite this, officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and DAR advised them to leave the area and ignored their concerns. Their promise of conducting investigation remains to be a promise. Now, drones were being flown in the area that the farmers suspect were used to map their location. Farmers cannot also work well because of fear and are demoralized since agencies are unsympathetic to their issues.

1. **Barangay Sumalo, Hermosa, Bataan**

A total of 155.6 hectares of land should be distributed to over 100 farmer families after the revocation of the conversion order to the Riverforest Development Corporation (RDC) of the Litton family to develop the property within the required time frame.

The land distribution process has been halted due to the lack of vigilance and sense of urgency of the DAR, combined with the harassment and intimidation of the installed armed guards of the RDC to the ARBs. These guards have also prevented the DAR officials from entering the property, putting off the landholding survey.

Legitimate farmers of Sumalo were also demoralized because of the sustained lack of positive response from the government to address the different forms of harassment and criminal cases they are facing. These include grave coercion, syndicated estafa, administrative case, ejectment, abuse of authority, injunction, cyberbullying, robbery or carnapping, and homicide. Additionally, the village chief who led the petition for agrarian reform has been charged administratively at the Municipal Council and is expected to lead to his expulsion from position. There are also threats of eviction of pro-CARP residents due to illegal squatting charges, which concerns the issue of the right to home lots of ARBs that should be asserted by the DAR.

Now, there are over 70 houses in the area already demolished and families are now living in a covered court that is not conducive for the farmers, especially their children, for shelter, hygiene, education, safety, and food, among others.

1. **Boundary of Maragondon-Ternate, Cavite**

This concerns a public land wherein occupants have been present for several decades in the area has been subjected to conflicting land claims. Farmers requested dialogues with DENR to discuss their demands since there were claimants given with free patent despite non-occupation to the area. The poor cadastral records and land survey further hinder the resolution of the issue. This situation has led farmers to be at a loss, along with being confronted with ejectment cases that resulted in the demolition of their houses.

These cases are only a few of the thousands of cases faced by our local producers. As the projected world population reaches eight (8) billion this year, it is imperative for the State to uphold rule of law and provide rights-based and people-centered interventions for our farming communities that serve as our lifeline every day.