



JUN 23 2023



DA-DENR JOINT SPECIAL ORDER

No. 2023- 01

SUBJECT : CREATING THE NATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (NOC) AND REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (RTWGs) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (BDFAPs) IN PROTECTED AREAS AND WIDER AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

In the interest of the service and in order to ensure smooth and efficient implementation of the Biodiversity-friendly Agricultural Practices following the DA-DENR Joint Administrative Order No. 2021-01: "Mainstreaming Biodiversity-friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAPs) In and Around Protected Areas and Promoting the Same in Wider Agricultural Landscapes" and in support to the DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-12 adopting the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028¹ and other related National Commitments, the National Oversight Committee (NOC) and Regional Technical Working Groups (RTWGs) are hereby created with members and functions, as follows:

I. National Oversight Committee (NOC)

A. Composition

Chair: Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Regulations, Department of Agriculture

Co-Chair: Undersecretary for Legal and Administration, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Co-Vice Chair: Director, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM)

Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)

¹**Target 4** (By 2028, over 50% of genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and wild relatives will be conserved or maintained - Genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and wild relatives); **Target 11** (By 2028, there will be 10% increase in agricultural areas devoted to all types of biodiversity-friendly agriculture); and **Target 15** (By 2028, there will be at least 10 nationally recognized agricultural heritage systems)

Members (members of the NOC shall consist of permanent and alternate focals):

1. Department of Agriculture (DA)
 - a) Representative/s from Policy Research Service (PRS)
 - b) Representative/s from Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)
 - c) Representative/s from Field Operations Service (FOS)
 - d) Representative/s from Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)
 - e) Representative/s from Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
 - f) Representative/s from Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
 - g) Representative/s from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
 - h) Representative/s from Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)
 - i) Representative/s from Agriculture Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS)
 - j) Representative/s from Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)
 - k) Representative/s from Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)
 - l) Representative/s from National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP)
 - m) Representative/s from Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)
 - n) Representative/s from Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF)
 - o) Representative/s from Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4Ks) Program
 - p) Representative/s from other concerned DA Offices/units
2. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
 - a) Representative/s from Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations
 - b) Representative/s from Policy and Planning Service (PPS)
 - c) Representative/s from Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
 - d) Representative/s from Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
 - e) Representative/s from Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)
 - f) Representative/s from Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
 - g) Representative/s from Human Resource Development Service (DENR-HRDS)
 - h) Representative/s from other concerned DENR Offices/units
3. Representative/s of the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) Secretariat

The Soil Conservation and Management Division (SCMD) of DA-BSWM and Caves, Wetlands and other Ecosystems Division (CaWED) of DENR-BMB shall serve as Secretariat to the NOC.

All members of the NOC shall submit the names of the principal and alternate focal persons to the Chairpersons of NOC copy furnished the Secretariat within fifteen (15) days from the issuance of this Special Order (SO).

B. Functions of the NOC

The NOC's main function is to provide overall guidance and direction to the implementation of the DA-DENR Joint Administrative Order No. 2021-01. Specifically, it shall:

1. Prepare and oversee the implementation of the overall collaboration framework of action including the detailed work plan for the startup implementation of BDFAPs in the next 2 years beginning mid-2023 in the identified sites/areas in pilot regions (refer to Annex A);
2. Facilitate the creation of the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWGs) as well as recommend roles and responsibilities of DA and DENR Regional Offices and/or concerned Units/Services;
3. Oversee the conduct of roll-out/orientation and training programs as well as Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) activities for RTWGs and implementing partners;
4. Provide interim technical guidance to RTWGs on assessment tools, farming systems technical innovations and delivery systems to be promoted at LGU and farmer level;
5. Develop collaborative frameworks with a) DILG, Leagues of Provinces/Cities/Municipalities and concerned LGUs in consideration to the devolution of possible BDFAP-related services and b) NCIP in consideration of the substantive coverage of ancestral domains in targeted areas;
6. Collaborate with NCI-SRD secretariat for the mainstreaming of BDFAP concerns in the NCI framework and work programs.
7. Develop a phased expansion program for all regions based on the experiences from the pilot regions during the startup implementation;
8. Oversee the development, review, and adoption of standards for BDFAP recognition;
9. Recommend possible enhancement of the existing policy and identify other policies and actions needed such as incentives;
10. Identify policy-related issues that may enable or constrain the adoption of BDFAP and develop recommendations for national and local policy attention;
11. Promotion of BDFAPs to wider agricultural landscape and other agencies' investment programs; and
12. Recommend items for possible incorporation in Research & Development (R&D) agenda.

The NOC shall meet every semester or as deemed necessary.

II. Regional Technical Working Groups (RTWGs)

A BDFAP Technical Working Group (TWG) in each Region is hereby created to be chaired by Regional Directors of DA and DENR and members to be composed of representatives from the following Offices/Units:

1. DA Regional Office
 - a) Agricultural Provincial Coordinating Office (APCO)
 - b) Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED)
 - c) ATI
 - d) BFAR
 - e) Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)
 - f) Concerned program/focus: National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP); Soil and Water Research; Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4Ks) Program; Agribusiness and Marketing; and Regulatory Services

2. DENR Regional Office
 - a) Planning and Management Division (PMD)
 - b) Concerned PAMO/PASu, CENRO and PENRO; and
 - c) Concerned program/focus: biodiversity conservation, forest management, ecosystems research and river basin and environmental management

3. Concerned Regional Offices of National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)

The Chairpersons of Regional TWGs shall issue a Joint Regional SO with the names of the members of the TWGs to be submitted to the Chairpersons of NOC copy furnished the Secretariat.

A. Functions

The RTWGs shall perform the following duties:

1. Provide overall guidance to implementation of BDFAPs at the regional level based on the guidance from the National Committee;
2. Identify pilot areas/sites per region for BDFAP implementation based on the assessment of agroecosystems and biodiversity in general (refer to Annex A.1);
3. Identify and conduct priority training and extension programs as well as CEPA activities for farmers, community organizations, LGUs, local trainers and other key stakeholders;
4. Monitor the implementation, and prepare location-specific recommendations to enhance the BD-friendliness of areas/sites based on further consultations with farming communities, R& D community and key stakeholders;

5. Hold regular regional consultations with key stakeholders to review implementation progress;
6. Identify current programs that may be able to support farmers and communities that can lead to BDFAPs and recommend appropriate modifications to the existing support services;
7. Work closely with a) Leagues of Provinces/Cities/Municipalities and concerned LGUs to mainstream BDFAP strategies and practices in local land use and development programs and plans; and b) NCIP local offices to ensure effective collaboration in identification and assessment of support interventions in ancestral domains;
8. Provide recommendations for long-term capacity building of DA and DENR human resources as well as those of LGUs and NCIP in support of BDFAP; and
9. Document and facilitate the review of good practices for the promotion of BDFAPs to large agribusiness plantations and other investment programs at the regional and local levels

The RTWGs shall meet every quarter or as deemed necessary.

The above NOC and RTWGs may invite additional personnel from DA, DENR and other agencies and stakeholders with critical roles for specific activities in the performance of their tasks. Likewise, they are authorized to create Sub-Committee or Thematic Groups, as necessary, to ensure that the objectives of the program are achieved.

Expenses to be incurred by the NOC and RTWGs shall be charged against the funds of respective Offices subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately.



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DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary, Department of Agriculture


MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Annex A

BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (BDFAP) OVERALL FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Introduction

The DA and DENR has promulgated JAO 2021-01 with the following objectives:

- a) Agricultural development that is compatible with conservation of ecosystems in areas where they are practiced;
- b) Promote institutionalization of BDFAPs in prioritized areas; and
- c) Provide the basic framework for future formulation of BFAP standards.

The JAO on BDFAP, which will be implemented in the following areas: *tenured areas in multiple-use zones and buffer zones of PAs; CBFMA and ISF in classified forest lands; agricultural lands in ancestral domains and private agricultural lands*, will support the principles revolving around balancing production and conservation programs as well as sensitivity to local needs and cultures. The said JAO espouses the sustainable use of resources to maintain integrity and viability of ecosystems and supports biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation. In line with the above principles, Section 7 of the JAO also cites initial technical considerations/features of technologies to promote BDFAP in farms, aquaculture and/or marine/coastal ecosystems.

Moreover, the JAO 2021-01 cites strategies and approaches to be undertaken (Sections 6, 8 and 9) which tackles important considerations such as the following:

- a) Location-specific conditions;
- b) Consonance to existing PA management plans, other local and conservation plans and environmental studies;
- c) Standards development and local policy support;
- d) Capacity building; and
- e) Extension support to farmers and incentives

In view of the above, the following are the set of activities that will be executed in the implementation of JAO 2021-01 in the next six (6) years:

| ACTIVITY SETS | TIMELINE | | | | | |
|---|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
| A. STARTUP/PILOTING | | | | | | |
| 1. Baseline and inventory of agroecosystems | X | | | | | |
| 2. Forum/consultations/meetings with key stakeholders | X | | | | | |
| 3. Orientation/roll-out activities | X | | | | | |
| 4. Mainstreaming in DA-DENR plans and programs | X | X | X | | | |

| ACTIVITY SETS | TIMELINE | | | | | |
|---|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
| 5. Development of partnerships with stakeholders | X | X | | | | |
| 6. Site level implementation - Assessment of pilot sites and regions (Annex A) | X | | | | | |
| 7. Formulation of recommended technological strategies and delivery systems for pilot sites | | X | | | | |
| 8. Monitoring and documentation | | X | | | | |
| 9. Policy and Program Review - National Oversight Committee - Regional TWGs | | X | | | | |
| B. EXPANSION OF PILOTS | | | | | | |
| 1. Capacity building and communication initiatives including development and dissemination of modules/manuals | | X | X | X | | |
| 2. Identification of expansion sites | | X | | X | | X |
| 3. Site level implementation | | X | X | X | X | X |
| 4. Monitoring and documentation | | X | X | X | X | X |
| C. MAINSTREAMING INTO FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS AND FOLLOW-ON POLICIES | | | | | | |
| 1. Policy and Program Review • National Oversight Committee • Regional TWGS | | | X | X | X | X |
| 2. Development of improved standards and incentives after the start-up implementation and expansion | | | X | | X | |
| 3. Forum/consultations/meetings on key learnings and experiences with key stakeholders • Leagues/LGUs • PAMBs, CADT networks, CBFM PO networks • Science community, communicators, planning officers | | | X | X | X | X |
| 4. Formulation of inputs and support policies to development plans at the national (PDP) and local (CLUP and CDP) | | | X | | X | |

Annex A.1.

CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION OF PILOT SITES FOR STARTUP IMPLEMENTATION

The NOC and RTWG will be guided by the following criteria:

1. For identification of the first 5 pilot regions

- Emerging issues and concerns
- Presence of relevant initiatives in relatively large landscapes;
- High Immediate demonstration potential; and
- Promising track record of collaboration between DA and DENR and with LGU, NCIP and other stakeholders

2. For identification of sites in each pilot region (at least 2)

- Representative of agricultural landscapes in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) that are a) located in PA; and/or b) supported by CADT;
- Potential for immediate demonstration value; and
- Included among the sites under a) DA-SAAD program; or b) GEF-7 Multifocal Landscape project; and/or c) BD corridor project
- Presence of related special project/s and staff that can help facilitate pioneering action