



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. **17**

Series of 2024

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIC LARGE RUMINANTS
DISPERSAL PROGRAM FOR BEEF PRODUCTION**

I. RATIONALE

Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10068 (RA 10068) or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, as amended by Republic Act No. 11511 (RA 11511), declared that it is the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further, and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines.

As amended, section 5 of RA 10068 established the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP). The NOAP aims to promote and commercialize organic farming practices, cultivate and adopt production and processing methods that have already been developed, or are to be developed, conduct continuing research and upgrading thereof, assist in the capacity building of farmers and the education of consumers thereon, and provide assistance to local government units (LGUs), peoples' organizations, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders who are practicing and promoting organic agriculture.

Currently, the local production of cattle beef and carabeef is 185,000MT CWE while the national demand is estimated at 277,000MT CWE (2.36kg per capita at 117M population). Given this data, there is a shortage of 92,000MT CWE for 2023. This shows that there is room for local beef production (Source: Office of Agricultural Affairs, Manila, 2023).

To address the gaps, the NOAP in coordination with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) will undertake a cattle and carabao dispersal program. The NOAP has initially identified LGUs to be recipients for the pilot implementation of the program.

The provisions under this Memorandum Circular aim to lay down the criteria, rules, and procedures to avail of the organic large ruminant dispersal program.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

Under the program, the NOAP through the BAI shall support interested LGUs in implementing a large ruminant (cattle and carabao) dispersal program in their areas. The selection of animals for distribution will be determined by the requests from the LGUs. The program will provide 50 heads of animals to the qualified LGUs. The LGUs will identify qualified recipients based on the set criteria. The recipients shall raise and breed the animals in compliance with the provisions of the Philippine National Standard (PNS)

for organic large ruminants. The recipients shall follow the pay-forward scheme by passing the first offspring to the next in-line-qualified recipients.

III. ELIGIBLE PARTNERS/BENEFICIARIES

A. Direct Partners - The Local Government Units should:

1. Have an Organic Agriculture (OA) ordinance consistent with the DA-Department of the Interior and Local Government (DA-DILG) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, series of 2022, entitled "Revised Guidelines on the Roles and Responsibilities of Local Government Units (LGUs) in the Implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) pursuant to Republic Act No. 10068, as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations;"
2. Have an established Organic Agriculture Program for at least one (1) year;
3. Have local budget allocation for organic agriculture;
4. Willing to provide dedicated knowledgeable personnel for the dispersal program;
5. Willing to provide veterinary and insemination services for the animal stocks;
6. Willing to provide a holding area for unclaimed animal stocks;
7. Willing to provide marketing and value-adding services such as slaughtering services consistent with the Philippine National Standard on Organic Agriculture (PNS on OA); and
8. Willing to sponsor continuing training for farmer-beneficiaries.

B. Indirect Beneficiaries - The Farmer Recipients should:

1. Have an established multi-species forage area (combination of multi-purpose fodder trees, grasses, and forage legumes) either contiguous or non-contiguous plots that can support the feed requirement of the animals;
2. Attend training on the raising of organic large ruminants and management of improved pasture and fodder;
3. Enroll in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA); and
4. Provide a natural shed for the animal as a counterpart.

IV. CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION

A. Direct Beneficiaries

1. Member of associations of LGU supporting organic agriculture;
2. With target beneficiaries as members of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs);
3. With target beneficiaries that have experience in raising large ruminants;

B. Indirect Beneficiaries

1. With at least one (1) year experience in cattle and carabao raising.

7. Pay forward to the next-in-line recipient the first offspring;
8. Establish constant communication and coordination with the LGU for any animal- and program-related concerns;
9. Process applicable insurance in case the animal dies but not due to the recipient's fault;
10. In case the animal dies due to the recipient's fault, he/she shall acquire a replacement animal and care for it until it reproduces, thereby providing offspring to pass on to the next-in-line recipient; and
11. Ensure recordkeeping of the animal using the prescribed template of the BAI and submit the records to the LGU.

E. National Organic Agriculture Program

1. Oversee the overall implementation of the dispersal program;
2. Discusses the dispersal program with candidate recipient LGUs;
3. Participate in the conduct of spot-checking for the monitoring of operations of the dispersal program;
4. Consolidate and analyze all submitted reports from BAI; and
5. Provide recommendations for the improvement of the operation of the dispersal program.

F. National Organic Agriculture Board

1. Participate in the conduct of spot-checking for the monitoring of operations of the dispersal program; and
2. Review and evaluate the recommendation for the continuation or termination of the program.

G. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STANDARDS

Provide technical assistance to LGUs and farmer beneficiaries on organic production systems for ruminants and PGS Accreditation and Certification

VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring shall be done at the local, regional, and national levels. The LGU shall conduct site visits and submit quarterly and annual monitoring reports. Likewise, the BAI and the DA-RFO shall conduct periodic site visits to validate the reports submitted by the LGUs. The BAI and the DA-RFO shall submit annual reports and program evaluations at the end of the five (5) years of implementation.

IX. FUNDING SOURCE

The funding for the program shall be charged primarily to the NOAP Fund. The LGUs, other DA Units, and government agencies may also provide financial and other support to the program for greater impact.


X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these guidelines may be made after prior consultations with all stakeholders and upon approval of the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB).

XI. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon publication in The Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and its filing with the University of the Philippines Law Center - Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

Done this 10th day of May, 2024 in Quezon City.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR.
Secretary



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