



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP GRANT ON ORGANIC FARMING

This scholarship program is a highly specialized internship program designed to instill and develop in the trainees an appreciation and eagerness for organic agriculture and eventually adopt it as their source of income. It differs from other scholarship programs which provided tuition fee and stipend only. The program provides start-up support and mentoring for the implementation of their business plan. Thus, empowering the youth to become organic agripreneur.

Goals and Objectives

The program aims to contribute to the attainment of food sovereignty through ensuring the availability of healthy agricultural produce and products grown, raised and developed in a healthy and safe environment.

Primarily, the program aims to encourage the youth, develop and train them to become organic farmers and practitioners. Specifically, it aims to:

- equip the youth with knowledge and skills in organic agriculture practices;
- increase organic agriculture practitioners, and organic agriculture related enterprise;
- increase organic agriculture areas; and
- increase adopters of organic agriculture practices.

Scope and Coverage

The program is a collaborative effort between the DA- NOAP and the DA- ATI and shall be implemented nationwide enjoining the youth. The program targets 150 youth, enjoining women, out-of-school youth, and degree holders, and 75 farm partners coming from different provinces practicing chemical-free and/or organic farming system, as beneficiaries.

For 21 months, the trainees will be given a monthly stipend while the farm partners will receive a mentoring fee. Towards the end of the 1st year-implementation, the start-up support will be released to the trainees for the implementation of their proposed organic enterprise under the supervision of farm partners. The start-up support will be used for all the materials and requirements of the trainees for his/her enterprise including site rental, planting materials, facilities, equipment, among others.

Considering that the trainees are still starting their businesses, they need monthly assistance for their food and other basis needs, thus a continuous monthly stipend and mentorship fee will be provided to the trainees and farm partners, respectively.

The grants will be given to 150 trainees.

Eligibility Criteria and Corresponding Documentary Requirements for Application

There are two key players in this program, classified as: a) farm partners; and b) trainees.

A. Farm Partners

Eligibility Criteria	Documentary Requirement
1. Farm operator/owner of certified organic or chemical-free farm, preferably LSA certified farm	Notarized Affidavit as owner/operator of an organic and/or chemical-free farm; Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) certification, if applicable
2. Must be in operation for at least one (1) year	Farm journal; Financial statement for the previous year's operation
3. Has farm activities within the value chain either production, value adding, processing, or marketing	Farm layout; Photos of farm and its facilities including accommodation areas;
4. Has basic farm tools, equipment or facilities needed for its operation	List and biodata of resource persons/trainers;
5. Has accommodation facility for at least two (2) trainees	
6. Has internship program plan from March to November within a year	Internship Program plan and design including performance evaluation and post-internship assessment
7. With good community standing and has no proven derogatory record	At least two (2) recommendations letter from a community leader (e.g. barangay captain, parish priest, school principal, civil society organization, farmers' cooperative or association)
8. Farm area is not part of military identified conflict zones	Certification from the respective AFP infantry division
9. Others	Letter of intent addressed to the DA-ATI Regional Director Bank account details, preferably LBP if available

B. Trainees

Eligibility Criteria	Documentary Requirement
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Youth	
1. Age 18 to 35 years old at the time of application	Clear scanned copy of any valid government issued ID (indicating the date of birth)
2. Natural born Filipino citizen	
3. Interested to enter the agriculture industry, especially practice organic agriculture	Notarized Sworn Statement as proof of willingness and commitment to undertake organic agriculture-related activities/enterprises after the training; Business Model Canvas (BMC)
4. Willingness to undertake 21-month internship and hands-on practice contract	
5. Physically and mentally fit	Medical certificate indicating “fit to work”
6. Has good community standing or moral character	At least two (2) recommendation letters from a community leader (e.g. barangay captain, parish priest, school principal, civil society organization, farmers’ cooperative or association)
7. Others	Bank account details, preferably LBP if available
	Accomplished application form

. Mechanics of Implementation and Procedures

A. Application, Selection and Evaluation Procedures for Trainees

1. Application

The ATI-Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and the DA-Regional Field Offices (RFOs) shall conduct information caravan to raise awareness among the general public. Interested applicants for farm partners and trainees shall submit their application form to the ATI-RTCs along with the documentary requirements (Section VI). Submission of application can be done physically or via email. ATI-RTCs shall provide email addresses where the applicants can send their application and required documents.

2. Selection

All applications shall undergo screening process by the Screening and Selection Committee. The Committee shall assess and verify the completeness and accuracy of the documents submitted by the applicants.

One hundred fifty (150) trainees shall be selected among the applicants. All applicants shall undergo prioritization ranking based on the following criteria to select the target number of trainees:

2.1 Graduate of 4-year course

Criteria	25 points	20 points	15 points	10 points
Educational/training background on agriculture	Graduate of Bachelor's degree major in Organic Agriculture	Graduate of any Bachelor's degree related in Agriculture	Graduate of any related Bachelor's degree	Graduate of any Bachelor's degree
Farm Experience	More than 3 years	2 to 3 years	More than a year	Less than a year
Re-entry plan on the preferred production area (crop, livestock and poultry, fishery, and processing)	Complete operation, human resources, marketing and financial plan	Complete operation, marketing and financial plan	Complete operation and marketing plan	Complete operation plan
Availability of site for planned project	Site under the name of the immediate family of the trainee	Site under tenancy of the family	Site with written commitment for rent/usufruct to the trainee	Has no clear site for planned project

2.2 Out of school youth

Criteria	25 points	20 points	15 points	10 points
Educational/training background on agriculture	Graduate of TESDA vocational courses on agriculture	With NC II certification on organic agriculture	At least high school graduate and/or training certificate on organic agriculture	High school level
Farm Experience	More than 3 years	2 to 3 years	More than a year	Less than a year
Re-entry plan on the preferred production area (crop, livestock and poultry, fishery, and processing)	Complete operation, human resources, marketing and financial plan	Complete operation, marketing and financial plan	Complete operation and marketing plan	Complete operation plan
Availability of site for planned project	Site under the name of the immediate family of the trainee	Site under tenancy of the family	Site with written commitment for rent/usufruct to the trainee	Has no clear site for planned project