

DA AO No. 42, Series of 1999

Guidelines in Planning, Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating Extension Programs for Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Implementing Rules and Regulations Pursuant to Republic Act 8435

October 14, 1999

The AO provides the basic and governing principles, the scope and components of A&F extension, the major actors of A&F extension, and the specific guidelines on the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and budgeting and funding scheme for the A&F extension program in consonance with the provisions of the AFMA of 1997 and EO No. 12. It designates the ATI as the overall manager for AFE activities in the country and to provide advice on the management of financial and logistical support for the extension.

Salient Extension Provisions

Specific Guidelines

5.1 Planning of AFE Program

- All DA-ATI centers in collaboration with DA-RFUs, DA Regional Integrated Agriculture Research Centers (DA-RIARCs) DA-BFAR, concerned LGUs, and Research Development and Extension (RDE) networks shall lead in formulating AFE programs at the provincial, regional and zonal (island) levels.
- Aside from DA-ATI, DA-RFUs, DA-BFAR and LGUs, planning of AFE programs for specific area shall involve all major stakeholders and actors of NESAF, particularly community-based organizations of farmers, fisherfolk, women and the youth including the business sector, state colleges and universities (SCUs) and relevant national government agencies (NGAs) especially DAR, DENR, TESDA and CHED as well as those under the DA.
- Consistent with AO No. 1 Series of 1999, AFE program plans shall be an integral component of the unified RDE agenda and programs consolidated by core planning teams which reflect priorities of agro-ecological zones in the municipalities, provinces, and regions.
- All AFE programs must support the strategic agriculture and fisheries development zone (SAFDZ) integrated development plans, agriculture and fisheries modernization plans (AFMP) and food security plans formulated at the municipal and provincial level. As such, the AFE program plan shall be eventually integrated as a component of the AFMPs and food security plans.
- An integrated AFE plan shall be developed per province and region. As such, there shall only be one unified AFE program for the whole country regardless of fund source and implementing institution. The primary reason for this policy is to strengthen inter-agency complementation, enhance the impact of AFE programs and optimize resource sharing among various players.
- AFE program plans shall be consolidated at the province by the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) and designated DA-ATI provincial centers; at the region by DA-ATI and DA-BFAR regional training centers and at the zonal (Island) level by DA-ATI national centers. The national AFE shall, in turn, be consolidated by the DA-ATI central office, AFE planning at all levels shall be done every five years.
- The national AFE program plan shall be submitted by DA-ATI central office to the DA Secretary who shall endorse it to the Council for Extension, Research and Development for Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) for approval. The approved national AFE program plan shall be the basis of allocating budgets and sharing the resource in the NESAF.
- Upon approved by the CERDAF, AFE programs shall be collaboratively implemented by the members of the RDE network and NESAF with the national government (e.g., DA-ATI, DA-RFUs, DA attached agencies, SCUs, and other NGAs) directly complementing LGUs and the private sector
- The provincial government shall integrate the implementation of AFE programs within the province, technically supported by DA-ATI provincial centers. Integration at the regional level shall be done by DA-RFUs and DA-ATI and DA-BFAR regional training centers. Integration at the national level shall be done by the DA-ATI central office.

- As the integrator of AFE programs and services at the local level, provincial governments shall orchestrate all AFE activities whether those of the DA, SCUs, at the private sector and NGAs. Such orchestration shall primarily consider the consistency and supportiveness of AFE operations to the implementation of provincial food security and agriculture and fisheries modernization programs taking into consideration the interest of all stakeholders. Consequently, all members of the NESAF shall synchronize their AFE activities with provincial and municipal governments for maximum coordination.
- To facilitate AFE program implementation by LGUs, all agricultural and fisheries extension workers in the provinces, cities, and municipalities shall devote their official time in agriculture and fishery extension work. All other assignments outside of AFE prior to this Order should be reconsidered.
- The DA-ATI and DA-BFAR training centers in collaboration with the NESAF shall organize a pool of trainers in their respective areas. This pool shall include the best trainers in the area including outstanding researchers, rural development workers, lead farmers and fisherfolk, rural entrepreneurs, women leaders, indigenous peoples, and the youth. Whenever feasible, an exchange of trainers shall be done among DA-ATI centers, LGUs and SCUs.
- Experiential learning techniques, distance learning, electronic-based, and indigenous innovative learning approaches shall be mainstreamed and institutionalized to expand and strengthen farmer, fisherfolk, women and youth education.
- The Farmers Field School (FFS) successfully implemented by the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program shall be expanded and institutionalized by DA-ATI with the IPM-National Program Office, DA-RFUs, LGUs, and DAR as the major training methodology for rice, corn, vegetables. Coconut and other commodities to be identified later with the private sector.
- The season-long FFS curriculum shall be expanded to include all phases of the community organizing process, varietal selection, seed technology, balanced fertilizer strategy, integrated pest management, other appropriate cultural practices, post-production operations and social technology (i.e., leadership, marketing, community organizing, values formation, etc.,)
- Community-based coastal, inland and marine resource management approaches shall also be institutionalized by DA-BFAR and DA-ATI with the private sector and major stakeholders.
- A post-training phase shall be established to reinforce and replicate learnings gained by farmers in the FFS. This is patterned after the farmer-scientist model piloted by the UPLB. This model promotes the interface of scientists and farmers in learning and technology developed including farmer-to-farmer extension.
- The private sector shall be tapped and accredited by the DA to deliver and implement AFE services through multi-year grants and co-financing arrangements along but not limited to the following areas:
 - Food production, processing, and marketing
 - Training services
 - Community organizing and development
 - Financial management
 - Participatory and andragogic extension approaches
 - Information, education and communication campaigns
 - Development and production of extension-communication materials
 - Non-formal distance education
 - Sustainable agricultural development and resource management
 - Environmental management
 - Community mobilization
 - Community advocacy
 - Agribusiness services
 - Participatory community management

5.3. Monitoring and Evaluation of AFE Programs

- 5.3.1. A project benefit monitoring and evaluation system (PBMES) shall be formulated and adapted for all AFE programs. In general, the PBMES shall cover the physical and financial

performances of the AFE system. More specifically, among others, the PBMES shall cover management, technology utilization, institutionalization and Impact (social, economic political and cultural) of AFE programs at all levels. Moreover, the PBMES shall also establish and sustain an efficient reporting system for AFE programs to enhance management responsiveness at all levels.

- 5.3.2. The DA-ATI with technical support from the DA-BAR and DA Planning Service shall lead in the formulation of the PBMES to be validated with various stakeholders and approved by the CERDAF before implementation.
- 5.3.3. At the provincial and municipal level, M&E of AFE programs shall be led by the government through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) with technical assistance from the concerned DA-ATI provincial center. At the regional level, M&E shall be led by DA-RFUs and DA-ATI and DA-BFAR regional training centers. M&E at the zonal and national levels shall be coordinated respectively by the DA-ATI national centers and central office.
- 5.3.4. M&E teams from the municipal, provincial and regional levels shall be organized from among members of the NESAF. These teams shall collaborate with the OPA, DA-ATI, DA-RFUs, DA-RIARCs, DA-RFTCs, and DA-BFAR in local M&E activities. Results of M&E activities shall be immediately led back to local and national RDE networks and NESAF for proper action.
- 5.3.5. Regular reviews of AFE programs shall be jointly conducted by DA-ATI and DA-BAR in collaboration with RDE networks. These shall be synchronized with the regular R&D reviews to serve as an effective and efficient component of the MM&E system for the whole RDE spectrum.
- 5.3.6. A computerized management information system of all AFE programs and AFE extension force shall be gradually implemented by the Da-ATI central office with assistance and Fisheries (DA-ITCAF. This FE MIS shall be linked with the National Information Network (NIN).

5.4 Budgeting and Funding Scheme for AFE Programs

- 5.4.1. Starting from the fiscal year 2000, an integrated budget for AFE programs shall be adopted. Similar to agriculture and fisheries R&D, AFE funds shall be categorized into two; the core AFE funds and direct AFE costs. Core funds shall be directly managed by the concerned agency and released to it by the other hand, direct AFE costs which include the AFMA capability building budget and salary augmentation fund shall be disbursed following a set of guidelines to be developed by the DDA in consultation with various sectors.
- 5.4.2. Beginning the fiscal year 2000, direct costs of all extension activities of DA flagship commodity programs (e.g., rice corn, livestock and high-value crops) shall be released by DBM directly to the Da-ATI.
- 5.4.3. Core AFE funds of DA bureaus and attached agencies/corporations and all direct AFE costs shall be endorsed by the DA-ATI for approval by the CERDAF prior to their release by DBM.
- 5.4.4. Based n approved programs by the CERDAF, the DA-ATI may fund direct AFE costs through grants treated as multi-year funds from the AFMA capability building budget.
- 5.4.5. Co-financing arrangements for AFE programs may be entered into by the DA, with the private sector subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DA Secretary.

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