

Memorandum Reference No. M17-03-114
Guidelines in the Operationalization of ATI TIER 2 Program for 2017
June 28, 2016

The memorandum provides a guideline that supports the thrust of ensuring food security and poverty alleviation, particularly in the agriculture and fisheries sector. The program entitled, "Increasing Agricultural Productivity Towards Food Security and Poverty Alleviation: Extension Support to the Twenty Two Provinces with Highest Poverty Incidence in the Philippines (T2-ES22PPP)."

Salient Extension Provisions

C. Optimizing the use of appropriate extension interventions

This Program shall maximize the use of high-impact extension interventions that are the best fit for the provinces. Concerned RTCs shall carefully determine the interventions that are tested based on experience. Following the NEAP Thematic Programs, extension interventions shall include, but not limited to, good extension practices that had been generally tested nationwide:

- Thematic Program 1. Enhancing Access to Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) Knowledge Products and Services
 - School-On-Air Program (SOA). There should be at least one SOA per province. Municipalities can also have their own SOA.
 - E-Extension Program. Where applicable, the e-Extension program shall be implemented in the regions where farmers and fishers can access information online.
 - a. RTCs shall conduct blended strategies of e-Learning including literacy courses direct to farmers, fishers, out-of-school youth and rural women.
 - b. Inclusion of learning sites in the provinces and municipalities in the "Filipino Farmers are Ready to Market" (FilFARM) for them to promoted and market their products and their farms.
 - c. Techno-Gabay Program. Existing Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers may be equipped with information communication technology (ICT) resources, information education communication (IEC) materials and other learning resources for full use. If appropriate, FITS Centers shall be established in strategic locations accessible to farmers and fishers. This can be done innovatively by expanding its services through mobile FITS Centers in the barangays or setting up of FTIS at the barangay level. Moreover, the Magsasaka Siyentista (MS) in the area shall be tapped extensively to provide advisory services to farming and fishing communities. MS is expected to develop, packaged, showcase and market their products in line with the one-town-one-product concept
 - d. Provision of IEC materials. Need-based IEC materials shall be developed in local vernaculars and distributed to farmers and fishery to complement training and other advisory services.
 - e. Information sharing the good and indigenous agriculture as well as extension practices. This suggests that such practices shall be properly documented and packaged for sharing
- Thematic Program 2. Strengthening Competitiveness and Capacities of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector
 - Training Extension Delivery System (EDS) and Training Management (TM). LGU technicians and/ or agricultural extension workers (AEWs) shall be trained on these courses to enhance their skills in the provision of extension services.
 - Farm Business School (FBS). The Training of Trainers (TOT) graduates on FBS composed of ATI-RTCs, SUCs, and Offices of Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) participants in the regions shall be tapped to conduct training for trainers graduates to be administered by ATI Regional Training Centers. Trained Participants shall compose Teams of Trainers for LGU-AEWs who shall thereafter conduct FBS to their constituent farmers and fishers preferably farmer-leaders who

have the influence to other farmers in their communities. If possible, each municipality shall conduct at least one (1) FBS. There shall also be a recall of previously trained AEW-trainers who will be tapped to conduct FBS.

- Capacity Enhancement of MS. The skills and competencies shall be up-scaled towards national competency certification by TESDA as NC II.
- Establishment/ maintenance of learning sites. Where economically feasible, learning sites shall be established in strategically located areas,
- Provision of other extension support to training. During training, participants shall be required to come up with their action plans. Based on their Action Plans, ATI will determine whether these merit financial support for implementation. If possible ATI will engage the DA-RFOs and other support agencies to provide inputs (e.g. seeds, fertilizers, machines, etc.), marketing, credit, and other support services to farmers and fishers who will be applying what they learned at least initially on their own farm business.
- Thematic Program 3. Expanding Partnership in Advancing Excellence in AFE Delivery
 - Mobilizing the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Networks (RAFEN). RTCs shall maximize the use of RAFEN on the need for inter-agency collaboration in the well-coordinated provision of extension and other support services. Refer to ATI Memo dated April 20, 2016, on how RAFEN can be optimized.
 - Tapping private extension service providers (ESPs). Private ESPs shall compliment the government wherever they are strong in the provisions of extension services.
- Thematic Program 4. Scaling-Up AFE Innovations
 - Implementation and enhancement of innovative AFE interventions. Current innovative extension modalities shall be institutionalized in the target LGUs and shall be continuously improved until these are fit to local circumstances. These include, among others, the following:
 - a. FBS for all LGUs;
 - b. "From Arms to Farms" model for conflict areas;
 - c. "Lakbay Alay" or "Kit Journey" where MS, LS, cooperatives and private ESPs in groups reach out to poor farming communities to provide technical assistance or information caravan along with kits of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs distributed to farmers.
 - d. Training Services Enhanced Program for Rural Life Improvement (TSEP-RLI) model
 - Explore new extension models that fit the context of different clients.
- Thematic Program 5. Strengthening AFE Stakeholders' Capacity in Climate Change Resilience & Disaster Risk Management
 - Assessment of climate risks (current and future) and vulnerabilities that will influence the communities' prioritization of livelihood projects, adaptation measures and monitoring of their early warning systems
 - a. ATI Training Centers will call for proposals to assess LGUs' vulnerabilities to climate variability. Climate profiling of communities is inherent in the assessment for future evaluation
 - b. Based on the vulnerability assessment of the LGUs for approval of the ATI Training Centers to implement recommendations, a science-based appropriate mix of climate-resilient crops, livestock, fisheries, and other fruit crops/ trees.
- Thematic Program 6. Improving Enabling and Quality of Governance

- Institutionalization of results-based monitoring and evaluation system (RBMES). The ATI-Policy and Planning Division (PPD) shall provide oversight and technical assistance to Training Centers in setting up the RBMES based on guidelines to be set by the Division.

Source:

Retrieved from ATI Quality Management Systems Documents (Guidelines)