

Republic Act No. 8435
Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997
December 22, 1997

The principle behind the policy is to improve the conditions of farmers and fisherfolk and increase their productivity to meet the demands of the growing markets locally and abroad. The policy seeks to transform the agriculture and fisheries sector into a technology-based, advanced, and competitive industry based on provisions covering: (1) production and marketing support services; (2) human resource development; (3) research development, and extension; (4) rural non-farm employment; (5) trade and fiscal incentives; and (6) general provisions. Further, the policy states to prioritize research and development, invention, innovation, and utilization of research results through formal and non-formal education, extension, and training services. It shall support the development of a national extension system that will help accelerate the transformation of Philippine agriculture and fisheries from a resource-based to a technology-based industry.

Salient Extension Provisions

Chapter 2
Extension Services

Section 87. Extension Services Agriculture and Fisheries extension services shall cover the following major services to the farming and fishing community:

- a. Training services;
- b. Farm or business advisory services;
- c. Demonstration services; and
- d. Information and communication support services through tri-media.

Section 88. Special Concerns in the Delivery of Extension Services

The delivery of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services shall be multidisciplinary and shall involve the farmers, fisherfolk, and their organizations, and those engaged in food and non-food production and processing, including the private and public sectors.

There shall be a national merit and promotion system governing all extension personnel, regardless of the source of funding, to promote professionalism and achieve excellence and productivity in the provision of the government extension services.

Section 89. The National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NESAF)

The Department in coordination with the appropriate government agencies shall formulate a National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries. The National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries shall be composed of three (3) subsystems:

- a. The national government subsystem which directly complements;
- b. The local government subsystems; and
- c. The private sector subsystem.

Section 90. The Role of Local Government Units

The provincial governments shall integrate the operations for the agriculture extension services and shall undertake an annual evaluation of all municipal extension programs.

The extension program of state colleges and universities shall primarily focus on the improvement of the capability of the LGU extension service by providing:

- a. Degree and non-degree training programs;
- b. Technical assistance;
- c. Extension cum research activities;
- d. Monitoring and evaluation of LGU extension projects; and
- e. Information support services through the tri-media and electronics.

Section 91. Role of the Private Sector in Extension

The Department shall encourage the participation of farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives and associations and others in the private sector in training and other complementary extension services, especially in community organizing, use of participatory approaches, popularization of training materials, regenerative agricultural technologies, agribusiness, and management skills.

The Department is hereby authorized to commission and provide funding for such training and extension services undertaken by the private sector.

Section 92. The Role of Government Agencies

The Department, together with state colleges and universities shall assist in the LGU's extension system by improving their effectiveness and efficiency through capability-building and complementary extension activities such as:

- a. technical assistance;
- b. training of LGU extension personnel;
- c. improvement of physical facilities;
- d. extension cum research; and
- e. information support services.

Section 93. Funding for Extension Activities

Extension activities shall be supported by the following measures:

- a. allocation of multi-year budgets that shall be treated as grants;
- b. allows the transfer of funds from the Department to the local government units as extension grants; and
- c. the budget for agriculture and fisheries extension services shall be at least one percent (1%) of the gross value added (GVA) by the year 2001. The LGUs shall be responsible for delivering direct agriculture and fisheries extension services.

Section 94. Excellence and Accountability in Extension

The Department shall formulate the guidelines in evaluating extension activities and institutions, which shall involve an independent and interdisciplinary team of collegial reviewers and evaluators.

Section 95. Extension Communication Support for LGUs

The Department, in coordination with the public and private universities and colleges, shall develop integrated multimedia support for national and LGU extension programs. The Department shall assist the LGUs in the computerization of communication support services to clients and linkages to the NIN.

Sources:

Retrieved from "Compendium of Extension Policies and Extension-Related Policy Studies & Research" of ATI-PPD and <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/phi22258.pdf>