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Implementing Rules and Regulations Pursuant to Republic Act 8435
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The Administrative Order states the implementing rules and regulations consistent with the objectives of AFMA of 1997 or RA 8435. The AO serves as a guide to the DA, and all other concerned bureaus, offices, agencies, and stakeholders in aid achieve the goals of agriculture and fisheries sectors in accordance to the principles of poverty alleviation and social equity, food security, rational use of resources, global competitiveness, sustainable development, people empowerment, and protection from unfair competition.

Salient Extension Provisions

Chapter 2
Extension Services

Section 86. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote science and technology as essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to the 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 on a technology-based industry.

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.

Rule 88.1 The ATI, in consultation with representatives of the institutions in the NESAF shall issue no later than December 30, 1998 "Guidelines for the Planning and Implementation of Agriculture and Fishery Extension," that shall provide guidelines on multidisciplinary extension work and its linkages to R&D, and strategies for increasing the participation of the clientele and the industry in the planning and M&E of extension programs.

Rule 88.2 A national merit and promotion system governing all extension personnel, whether in the national or local government shall be instituted. The Department, particularly the ATI, in consultation with the CSC, CESB, DILG, and LGUs shall formulate, the harmonized merit and output-oriented promotion system, and present this for the approval of the CERDAF no later than March 31, 1999.

Rule 88.3 The national merit and promotion system for extension personnel shall provide the following:

Rule 88.3.1 A harmonized output-oriented evaluation system for extension performance;

Rule 88.3.2 A harmonized pay scale and incentive system which provides for productivity or performance incentives and benefits and,

Rule 88.3.3 A mechanism for professional development, including a code of conduct or extension personnel.

Rule 88.4 The ATI shall maintain a computerized database on the extension force, covering all agriculture and fisheries extension personnel of LGUs, the Department and its attached

agencies and bureaus, and other Departments. On or before December 30, 1999, the Department shall also expand the database to cover extension personnel of SUCs, NGOs, and POs.

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 LGUs shall be responsible for delivering direct agriculture and fisheries extension services.

The provincial government 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.

Rule 90.1 The LGUs shall be responsible for delivering agriculture and fisheries extension services to farmers, fisherfolk and agribusiness entrepreneurs.

Rule 90.2 Provincial governments shall integrate the operations for the agriculture extension services within the province and undertake continuing and periodic annual evaluation of all municipal extension programs.

Rule 90.3 PAs are mandated to coordinate and consult with the PPDOs, PVs, PNAOs, MAs and other concerned entities within their respective provinces to ensure that local-level agricultural and fisheries development plans, programs, projects, and investments are consistent, mutually supportive and contributory to provincial and municipal economic development. More specifically:

Rule 90.3.1 All PAs shall formulate, in consultation with the MAs in their respective provinces, an annual or periodic planning calendar, which incorporates schedules, deadlines, and guidelines on the municipal and provincial AFMP and PIP. The schedules and deadlines shall be consistent with the national development-planning calendar as formulated by the NEDA and the DBM, and the deadlines of the locality and item d of this Rule.

Rule 90.3.2 The guidelines for the preparation of the annual or periodic provincial and municipal AFMP shall include the review of all municipal-level agricultural and fisheries plans and projects by the PA, subject to the oversight of their respective Provincial Governors and Mayors.

Rule 90.3.3 Before being finalized, all draft local (Provincial or Municipal) AFMPs must be subjected to a scheduled, pre-announced public hearing open for attendance of all concerned, and held in the local (Provincial or Municipal) town hall. The public hearings shall be organized by the local MA and PA concerned and chaired by the concerned Municipal Mayor or Provincial Governor in consultation with the AFCs, FARMCs, NGOs, and Pos.

Rule 90.3.4 All Provincial Governors, PA and PV shall review and aggregate the AFMP, programs, budgets, and operations of all Municipalities within their provinces. Aggregation shall consider, in particular, multi-area projects and programs that cross administrative and political boundaries. The mechanism for review shall be through the submission by the Municipal Mayor and MA of the Municipal AFMP for the succeeding year to the Provincial Governor and PA on or before October 30 of the preceding year. The PA, in coordination with the PPDO and the

Office of the Provincial Governor, shall provide written feedback to the Municipal Mayor and MA within 30 calendar days from receipt of the Municipal Plans.

Rule 90.4 The Department, particularly the PS, ATI and the DILG shall issue the "Agriculture and Fishery Participatory Planning Manual for LGUs" no later than December 31, 1998. The manual should include the planning process, planning cycles, validation process and a plan for updating information and communication materials.

Rule 90.5 The Department, in coordination with the DILG shall also issue reading and other information materials, suggested procedures and formats, templates and other manuals that will serve as references for Provincial and Municipal Agricultural personnel. The materials shall be in sufficient quantities and shall be prepared at least in English, Visayan and Pilipino. While initial materials may be in print, The PS shall, in coordination with the FOS, AID and the ATI, mobilize itself to effectively prepare the learning materials on local agriculture and fisheries development planning. The Department shall update these materials at least every three years. The PS, ATI and the FOS may draw from the capability-building funds allocated under item 7 of Section 111 of RA8435 for this purpose, subject to the approval of the Secretary. The first editions of these materials shall be made available by the Department on or before December 30, 1998.

Rule 90.6 The Department, through the ATI and the RFUs in collaboration with the DILG, NEDA and national and local experts and institutions including the SUCs, shall periodically assess the agricultural and fishery planning and programming capability of LGUs and formulate a long-term program to provide continuing education and technical assistance to LGUs in sectoral planning and programming.

Rule 90.7 Effective August 1, 1998, all Local Development Councils (LDCs) of all provinces and municipalities shall include as a regular member the chairman or representative of the Local Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AFC). Provided, that: Rule 90.7.1 The Municipal Agriculturist shall serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the MAFC, and the Provincial Agriculturist shall serve as the Vice Chairperson of the PAFC.

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Rule 90.7.2 In municipalities where at least 5% of households derive their incomes from fishery or aquaculture, the LDC shall also include representation from the local FARMC as mandated by the Fisheries Code of 1988, and

Rule 90.7.3 The DILG, in coordination with the Department, is mandated to monitor the implementation of this provision.

Rule 90.8 SUCs shall focus their extension activities such that their priority clients, aside from students, are the extension personnel of LGUs. The SUCs shall focus on the improvement of the extension capabilities of LGUs by providing:

Rule 90.8.1 Degree and non-degree training programs;

Rule 90.8.2 Technical assistance;

Rule 90.8.3 Extension and research activities;

Rule 90.8.4 M&E of LGU extension projects; and,

Rule 90.8.5 Information support services.

Rule 90.9 The Department, particularly the ATI, in collaboration with the CHED, and LGUs shall develop "Guidelines in the Preparation of Extension Programs of SUCs" which shall be completed on or before December 30, 1998. These guidelines shall ensure that the extension programs of the SUCs shall:

Rule 90.9.1 Adhere to participatory principles in planning and implementation;

Rule 90.9.2 Form part of the integrated regional RDE agenda in the case of NUCAFs or the provincial RDE agenda in the case of PIAFs;

Rule 90.9.3 Encourage complementation of functions between the NUCAFs and PIAFs; and,

Rule 90.9.4 Be closely linked with RDE programs.

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.

Rule 91.1 The Department shall encourage the participation in extension of farmers' and fisherfolk's cooperatives and associations, NGOs and POs and other private entities with strong capabilities and track records in training and other complementary extension services especially in community organizing, use of participatory approaches, popularization of training materials, regenerative agricultural technologies, agribusiness, marketing and management skills.

Rule 91.2 The Department is hereby authorized to commission and provide funding for such training and extension services undertaken by the private sector under mutually acceptable terms and conditions.

Rule 91.3 The Department, particularly the ATI shall develop, no later than December 31, 1998, specific guidelines harnessing the resources and the expertise of the private sector in the provision of extension services. The guidelines should include, among other things, terms and conditions on extension grants to qualified private entities which undertake, on behalf of the Department and/or LGUs, specific extension services to target clientele.

Rule 91.4 The ATI shall compile a database and an accreditation system for private entities qualified to provide extension services.

Section 92. The Role of Government Agencies. - The Department together with the 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

Rule 92.1 The extension functions of the Department shall be undertaken by the RFUs and the ATI training centers, in collaboration with LGUs and SUCs, under the overall national coordination of the Office of the Undersecretary of RDE. The ATI Training Centers are under the overall administration of the ATI and shall design and implement programs which are consistent and functionally integrated with the regional agriculture and fisheries development strategy and program as led by the Office of the DA Regional Director.

Rule 92.2 The ATI training centers are composed of the National Training Centers and Institutes (NTCIs), Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and the Provincial Training Centers (PTCs). The NTCIs are supervised by the ATI and:

Rule 92.2.1 Provide national leadership in the planning, design, and M&E of training programs; and

Rule 92.2.2 Develop a network of national, regional, and provincial collaborators in undertaking the national training programs of their assigned commodities.

Rule 92.3 The RTCs are supervised by the ATI. in cooperation with the NUCAFs, RIARCs and the PAs of the region, the RTCs:

Rule 92.3.1 Provide leadership in the design, planning, design, and M&E of the regional training programs in coordination with the RIARCs; and

Rule 92.3.2 Develop and maintain a network of provincial collaborators in undertaking the regional training program.

Rule 92.4 The PTCs are supervised by the RTCs. In collaboration with the PAs and PIAF of the province, the PTCs:

Rule 92.4.1 Serve as satellite stations of the RTCs and the link between the regional and provincial research and extension programs;

Rule 92.4.2 Serve as an educational and training facility; and,

Rule 92.4.3 Serve as a provincial center for the distribution of training materials.

Section 93. Funding for Extension Activities. – Extension activities shall be supported by the following measures;

- a) allocation of a multi-year budget that shall be treated as grants;
- b) allow 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.

Rule 93.1 The Department, particularly the ATI, shall form a task force to work with the DOF and the DILG to propose parameters, modes, guidelines and mechanisms for co-financing agreements with the LGUs on the financing of agriculture and fisheries extension. The Department shall present these proposals to the CERDAF on or before March 30, 1999, for operationalization on or before January 2000.

Rule 93.2 The DBM shall ensure that the total nominal peso value of allocations for agricultural and fisheries extension expenditures from the national budget for fiscal year 2000, as contained in the President's proposed program of expenditures submitted to Congress in 1999 shall not be less than one per cent of agricultural GVA (including livestock and fisheries) for the year 1998 as reported by the NSCB.

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.

Rule 94.1 The ATI, in consultation with all the appropriate agencies and entities, shall draft the program, parameters, and guidelines for the evaluation of agricultural and fisheries extension performance, activities, institutions, and outputs, incorporating the OOPS. The ATI shall submit the draft for the evaluation system to the CERDAF on or before December 30, 1998, for implementation on or before March 31, 1999.

Section 95. Extension Communication Support for LGUs. - The Department, in coordination with the public and private universities and colleges, shall develop an 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.

Rule 95.1 The ATI, supported by the AFIS and FOS shall provide continuing development communication support through the tri-media for the nationwide extension system. Rule 95.2 The ITCAF shall collaborate with the DILG and other agencies as appropriate on the formulation and execution of a program to link LGUs to the NIN and to introduce IT for their agriculture and fishery-related activities.

Sources:

Retrieved from the "Compendium of Extension Policies and Extension-Related Policy Studies & Research" of ATI-PPD (2017) and

<http://spsissuances.da.gov.ph/attachments/article/381/DA%20AO%20%2006%20%20Series%20of%201998%20IRR%20of%20AFMA.pdf>