

## **Executive Order No. 338**

### **Restructuring the Department of Agriculture, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes**

**January 10, 2001**

The EO stated that the Department of Agriculture shall be the principal government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural and fisheries development and growth. In pursuit of this mandate, the DA shall provide the policy framework, help direct public investments, and in partnership with local government units (LGUs), provide the support services necessary to make agriculture and agri-based enterprises profitable and to help spread the benefits of development to the poor, particularly those in rural areas.

#### **Salient Extension Provisions**

Section. 2. Powers and Functions. In fulfilling its mandate, the DA shall perform the following functions:

(c) The generation, verification, and dissemination of information relevant to productivity growth and development. The DA shall undertake research and development programs which strengthen the linkage between research and extension, develop and broaden the adoption of productivity-enhancing production and processing technologies, identify and promote local capabilities for sustainable resource management, and assess market options for various commodities in agriculture and fisheries;

(d) The production, testing, and dissemination of superior plant and animal germplasm. In support of private sector initiatives, the DA shall develop, produce, and distribute superior crop varieties and breeds of livestock and fish suited to Philippine conditions, focusing on the extension, demonstration, and provision of parent stock and fish juveniles;

Section 3. Organizational Structure. The DA shall consist of the Office of the Secretary, Department Services and Bureaus, Regional Offices, and attached agencies and corporations.

Department Services and Bureaus shall be grouped along functional lines, as follows:

(a) Extension, LGU Support, and Infrastructure; vices and Bureaus, Regional Offices, and attached agencies and corporations.

Section. 5. Undersecretaries. The Undersecretaries shall assist the Secretary in the exercise of the mandate and in the discharge of the powers and functions of the DA.

The five (5) Undersecretaries shall be assigned the following functions:

(a) The Undersecretary assigned to Extension, LGU Support and Infrastructure shall oversee the implementation of the plans, policies, programs, and projects relating to extension and marketing assistance, infrastructure, and support to LGUs, especially for devolved agricultural services. He shall have direct supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Extension and LGU Support and of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA);

(b) The Undersecretary assigned to Research and Development shall take the lead in formulating and implementing the R&D programs of the DA and shall coordinate the R&D plans, programs, and projects of the various bureaus and agencies of the DA, as well as with other entities such as state universities and colleges, to ensure that these are in conformity with the thrusts and priorities of the DA as mandated by AFMA. He shall have supervision of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRES), Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Cotton Development Authority (CODA), and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice);

Section. 7. Functions of the Assistant Secretaries. Each of the six (6) Assistant Secretaries shall head any of the following: Office of Corporate Affairs; Office of Regional Executive Directors; Extension and LGU Support; Regulation; Policy, Planning, and Project Development; and Finance and Administration. The Assistant Secretaries shall have the following functions:

(c) The Assistant Secretary assigned to Extension and LGU Support shall assist the Undersecretary for Extension, LGU Support, and Infrastructure in the implementation of plans, programs, and projects relating to agricultural extension and support services to LGUs, including infrastructure development.

He shall also oversee the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) and supervise the implementation at the LGU level of special projects supported by official development assistance;

Section 12. Office of the Regional Executive Directors. The Office of the Regional Executive Directors (ORED) shall coordinate the activities of the Regional Executive Directors. It shall have supervision of the Field Operations Service (FOS). The ORED, through the FOS, shall serve as the principal logistics and support unit for the implementation of the Field Programs, the operations of the Regional Field Units (RFUs), and the services to extension functions of the LGUs.

The ORED shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary and shall have direct supervision of the Field Operations Service.

Section 14. Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service. The Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS), created pursuant to Administrative Order No. 6 (1998), shall facilitate and coordinate the efforts of the DA in all matters pertaining to agribusiness development and marketing assistance to include collaboration and provision of assistance to the private sector, including concerned non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, farmers and fisherfolk, in marketing and agribusiness ventures.

The Director of AMAS shall report to the Undersecretary for Extension, LGU Support, and Infrastructure.

Section. 22. Agricultural Training Institute. The Agricultural Training Institute shall:

- (a) Lead in the formulation of the national agriculture and fisheries extension (AFE) agenda and budget;
- (b) Prepare an integrated plan for publicly-funded training programs in agriculture and fisheries;
- (c) Formulate and issue guidelines in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating AFE programs;
- (d) Assist, in coordination with State universities and colleges (SUCs), the LGU extension system by improving their effectiveness and efficiency through capability-building and complementary extension activities such as technical assistance, training of LGU personnel, improvement of physical facilities, extension cum research, and information support services.

Section 23. Bureau of Agricultural Research. The Bureau of Agricultural Research shall be the body tasked to consolidate and strengthen the national agricultural and fisheries research system for increased effectiveness and efficiency. To achieve its mission, the BAR shall:

- (a) Serve as the secretariat for R&D of the Council on Extension, Research, and Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF);
- (b) Coordinate and strengthen the National Research and Development System in Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) towards the generation and transfer of technologies useful to the country's productive system and national life;
- (c) Manage the R&D Fund of the DA based on the guidelines approved by CERDAF;
- (d) Provide leadership in the formulation of the National Integrated Research and Development, and Extension Agenda Programs (NIRDEAPs) and the Regional Integrated Research and Development, and Extension Agenda Programs (RIRDEAPs);

Section 29. Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension. The Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension shall:

(a) Reduce post-harvest losses through the development, diffusion, and application of location-specific and cost-effective postharvest technologies for agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture products;

(b) Develop and disseminate safe and cost-effective postharvest pest-and-disease management processes and technologies; and

(c) Provide institutional and technical support for private sector participation in postharvest technology development and diffusion.

Section 32. Regional Offices. The DA is authorized to establish, operate, and maintain a Regional Office in each of the administrative regions of the country. Each Regional Office shall be headed by a Regional Executive Director, to be assisted by not more than three (3) Regional Technical Directors assigned to supervise any of the technical areas as may be identified by the Secretary, as follows: LGU Support and Extension, Research and Development, Fisheries, and Planning, Monitoring and Regulation.

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