

Memorandum Reference No. M17-05-232

Adoption of Revised Guidelines in the Establishment of Learning Sites and Schools for Practical Agriculture

April 19, 2017

The memorandum provides instruction to continue the establishment of Learning Sites and Schools for Practical Agriculture per Memorandum No. M17-04-178 dated April 5, 2017, all operating units of the Institute particularly the Training Centers are instructed to adopt the attached manual stipulating the guidelines for smooth implementation of the program.

Salient Extension Provisions

The Ladderized Approach to ATI Extension Services

The approach is an interplay of the agricultural extension services provided by ATI in a four-step ladder leading to full empowerment of farmer-beneficiaries. Indeed, it is a novel approach showing the extent to which agricultural extension services can be provided based on the philosophy that the greatest impact of knowledge is when it is both applied and shared.

Extension services in the ladder

- **Training Services.** The approach starts with training to improve farmers' attitude, skills, and knowledge (ASK). An effective training changes one's attitude to become positive. It may also enable participants to adopt the technology that they learned in their own farms, acquire certification from TESDA (e.g. NC II, etc.) indicating certain level of skills they achieved and have become farmer entrepreneurs. However, if they do not share what they learned to others, it cannot be said that the training intervention has achieved the greatest impact of extension. Therefore, the training to be conducted by All shall include the part where participants will have Action Plans indicating how they will both apply and share what they learned from the activity.
- **Demonstration Services.** To apply the learning from training and to share in the learning process, the more advanced farmers will make available their land resources as demonstration areas to be known and certified by All as Learning Sites (LS). LS, as the second ladder, shows the philanthropic attitude of farmers not only in further enhancing their own ASK but also allowing other farmers to learn from them through their farms.
- **Farm Business Advisory Services, Demonstration Services, Information Services, Training Services.** Growth in ASK coupled with significant farm improvements and where the LS farmer/farm family will now become farmer-trainer will qualify the LS farm to be up-scaled to the next level that All shall certify. School for Practical Agriculture (SPA). At this stage, wisdom will be cultivated as SPA operators shall have been capable of demonstrating a great amount of wisdom. They can now be partnered by the All in the provision of training in their limited capacity and relatively other extension services to the farmers.
- **Extension Accreditation Services.** With increasing desire of individual LS and SPA farmer/farm family operators to share in the work of agricultural extension equipped with extraordinary capabilities and with basic training facilities, they can group together to form an "organization/network of extension service providers" to enable them to apply for accreditation as Private Extension Service Providers (P-ESP) of the All. Considered as full-pledged extension agencies, PESP's shall have become better equipped as All's partners in the provision of extension services to farmers/fishers and their organizations.

II. LEARNING SITE (LS)

GENERAL FEATURES

- consists of the farmer-owner/farm family and his/her farm
- the farm serves as a demonstration area for hands-on learning
- the farmer/farm family serves as a resource person/source of technology
- demonstrates applicable technologies and farming strategies
- with basic techno demo farm facilities, holding area, a washroom, and toilet

FUNCTIONS

The LS will serve as a model or an example to showcase applicable agriculture technologies and thereby help improve farming capabilities of small farmers. Specifically, it shall serve as:

- practicum area to complement classroom learning;
- venue for practical and hands-on learning for immediate use;
- field visit area for other farmers, ATI 's training participants and others interested in agriculture; and
- On-the-job training (OJT) site for ATI 's scholarship program grantees, its other programs like the "Adopt a Farm Youth Program" under the 4-H Farm Youth Program as well as other interested agriculture students and individuals.

III. SCHOOL FOR PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE (SPA)

ADDED FEATURES

The SPA shall carry the general features of an LS being such initially, but shall have the following as added features:

- The SPA farmer/farm family shall be referred to as farmer-trainer.
- The farm is integrated, showcasing the best cultural management and science-based practices. The farming system is either crop-based, livestock-based or fishery-based.
- The farm activities cover production to marketing.
- In addition to the basic demo farm facilities, shall have functional facilities needed to undertake live-in training & extension activities such as a modest lodging facility, toilet, and bath, classroom with training equipment.
 - Components of the SPA: Training. Training shall be undertaken at the site by the farmer-trainer employing hands-on method with the farm as the practicum area.
 - Demonstration Services. Method and result demonstrations will be undertaken.
 - Information Support. Information communication materials such as leaflets, flyers, handouts and other visual materials shall be distributed by the LS to its clients.
 - Technical Assistance. Technical assistance shall be provided by the farmer trainer in addition to the training and information support.
 - Complementary Projects. Projects, such as processing center, marketing outlet or one-stop-shop may be set-up as additional features and income source and in preparation for becoming a Farm Tourism Site.

ADDED FUNCTIONS

The SPA will still continue the functions of LS. In addition, it shall serve as:

- an alternative training venue for All's training interventions particularly for
- agricultural skills development training courses that require hands-on methodologies on a live-in arrangement;
- a model to showcase the development of an ordinary farm to an agribusiness
- the farm which would redound to increased farmer income, proving agriculture as
- viable and productive occupation/livelihood and source of income; and
- source of the other extension services in the field such as farm business advisory
- services, information support, and technology demonstration.

Source:

Retrieved from ATI Quality Management Systems Documents (Guidelines)