



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
Quezon City, 1100 Philippines

25 November 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 17

Series of 2019

**SUBJECT: ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF RURAL BASED ORGANIZATIONS (RBOs) IN DA  
ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT THEREOF**

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In order to carry more stimulus to revitalize and sustain the organizations of farmers and fisherfolk and their activities to hone them to be more functional and effective partners of the Department of Agriculture, this Administrative Order is hereby issued.

I. Guiding Principles

The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435) constitutes that the state shall empower the agricultural and fisheries sector to develop and sustain themselves through encouraging the participation of farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives and association and other private sector in training and other complementary extension services especially in community organizing, practice of participatory approaches, mainstreaming of innovative training materials, agricultural technologies, agribusinesses and management skills.

II. Objectives

This Administrative Order shall serve as guiding document for officials and employees of the Department in partnering with various organizations of farmers and fisherfolk towards the attainment of participatory and sustainable agricultural sector.

III. Organizations

- a. Farmers – embraces the ramification of RA 7607 definition of small farmers as, “natural persons depending on farming as their primary source of income and on the sale, barter or exchange of agricultural products”.

Includes cutflower growers, nursery operators, commercial tree planters, seed producers and small agricultural producers as tenants sharecroppers, peasants, small owner cultivator or any self-employed individual who, by himself or with his family, provides the primary labor requirements of his business enterprise or one who earns at least 50% of his gross income from the payment, proceeds or income of the labor he provides.

- b. Fisherfolk – as defined by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 240, it defined to persons directly or personally and physically engaged in the taking and/or culture of fish and processing of fishery and/or aquatic resources.

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- c. Livestock and Poultry Raisers – farmers engaged in livestock and poultry raising
- d. Farmers/Fisherfolk Association – group of farmers, fisherfolk, livestock and poultry raisers. Other organizations and associations for farmers and fisherfolk are the Pambansang Mannalon, Mag-Uuma, Magbabaul, Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP) and Samahan ng Magsasakang Siyentista
- e. Rural Improvement Club – an association of rural women primarily aims to uplift the farmer and fisherfolk families through farm home resources management, leadership in community, women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship.
- f. 4-H Club of the Philippines – an association of the rural farm youth both in-school and out-of-school, single whos ages range from 10-30 years old which are engaged in agricultural projects aimed at developing self-reliance, entrepreneurship and leadership. It includes alumni associations such as PATP, JAECAAP and IFYE.
- g. This AO shall also cover the following professional organizations or non-rural based organizations:
  - Provincial Agriculturists and Veterinarians Association of the Philippines (PAVAP) – is duly registered association of Provincial Agriculturists and Veterinarians;
  - League of Municipal Agricultural Officer, Municipal and City Agriculturist of the Philippines (LeMMCAP) – is the duly registered association of Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO), Municipal Agriculturist and City Agriculturist;
  - 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association of the Philippines (4-H VLAP) – an association composed of 4-H Coordinators and retired 4-H Club members that are willing to work on youth development programs especially in assisting and implementing 4-H programs and projects;
  - Farm Home Extensionist Association of the Philippines (FHExAP) – an association composed of RIC Coordinators, Agricultural Technicians and Farm Home Extensionist that are closely involved in the implementation of the programs of the government in agricultural development for rural based organizations;
  - Japan Agricultural Exchange Council Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAECAAP) – an organization of graduates or alumni of Young Filipino Farm Leaders Training Program in Japan (YFFLTP)

IV. Roles and Responsibility

- a. The Agricultural Training Institute shall serve as the National Secretariat and Over-all Coordinator in the management and supervision of the sustaining activities of the rural based organizations. The ATI Director shall be assisted by the Partnerships and Accreditation Division specifically the Alliance Building and Grants Management Section. As Head of the Secretariat, ATI is authorized to conduct the following
  - a. Provision of extension related activities on work-oriented values, leadership skills development and entrepreneurship;
  - b. Conduct consultative meetings which will be attended by DA-RFO Coordinators and National Presidents of the Rural Based Organizations;

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- c. Maintain information of the activities and accomplishment of abovementioned organizations; and
  - d. Assist in implementation of Farm Family Forum and 4-H Club Day; and
  - e. Facilitate and create linkages and network both local and international organizations
- b. The DA-Regional Field Offices shall provide product support intervention for these Rural Based Organizations that will sustain their agricultural products and services. They shall also provide access to Rural Based Organizations on programs and interventions of DA-RFOs.
  - c. The Rural Based Organizations shall submit plans and programs of their respective Organization. Moreover, they are required to maintain databank or masterlist of registered members and officers.
  - d. The Non- Rural Based Organization shall also submit plans and programs of their respective Organization in consonance to the RBOs they are assisting. Also, they are required to maintain databank or masterist of registered members and officers.
  - e. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall conduct fisheries related activities for the RBOs.
  - f. The Bureau of Animal Industry shall conduct livestock and poultry related activities for the RBOs.
- V. Fund Support  
The budget shall be used specifically to pay for the travelling expenses, seminar and training expenses and other expenses for consultation/meeting of organizations subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

The funding support for the implementation of livelihood projects shall be sourced through the initiative of the organization.

- VI. Applicability of Organizations' Constitution and By-Laws  
The Constitution and By-Laws of all organizations shall continue to guide the conduct of activities if these respective organizations.
- VII. Effectivity  
These implementing guidelines shall take effect immediately upon arrival hereof and shall remain in full force and effect unless revoked.

Administrative Order 9 Series of 2002 dated April 15, 2002, its implementing guidelines and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked.

  
**WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
  
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