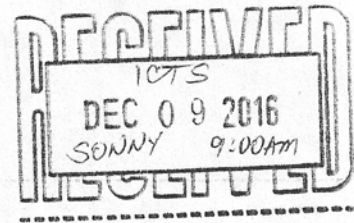




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City 1100, Philippines



21 November 2016

DEPARTMENT ORDER

No. 67

Series of 2016

**SUBJECT: Amending Department Order No. 3, Series of 2016
"Establishing the Department of Agriculture Institutional
Structure and Arrangements on Regulatory Policy
Work Streams, Coordination and Monitoring"**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) plays a principal role in ensuring safe and quality agricultural and fisheries products for consumers as well as facilitating trade of the same. This role calls for a farm-to-fork approach to ensuring quality and safety now being demanded by the local and foreign markets and consumers for the products they buy and consume. The DA regulatory agencies also play a critical role in protecting our borders from the entry of risks to human, plant, and animal health and life. It is imperative, therefore that the regulatory agencies strengthen delivery of services by recognizing and implementing reforms and practices aligned with best international principles and practices.

Cognizant of the inherent commodity-based orientation of our regulatory agencies which has at times served to cause fragmented and/or inadequate attention to regulatory policy and implementation of measures and actions, initiatives to strengthen harmonization of regulatory related functions and activities across the various operating units must continually be pursued. Efforts on enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of services in the field of regulation, including use of manpower and financial resources, to focus on priority areas for their optimized utilization, must also be observed to ensure that regulatory services beyond mere regulation of production and trade are delivered.

This Department Order is hereby issued to amend Department Order No. 3, Series of 2016 and updating the DA regulatory framework (**Annex 1**) and the institutional structure and arrangements on regulatory policy work streams, coordination and monitoring in the DA.

I. Objectives

1. To establish the key work streams relevant to advancing a streamlined and harmonized regulatory system and services of the DA;
2. To institute an effective linkage and appropriate level of coordination between DA and the relevant offices and agencies listed under II. Scope and coverage of this Order in the formulation and implementation of regulatory policies and services in order to assure safe and quality agricultural and fisheries products and to facilitate trade;
3. To institute a mechanism for the unified development of regulatory policy positions and recommendations, and for effecting appropriate interventions consistent with international commitments and agreements relevant to trade regulation;
4. To facilitate networking with the other government offices involved in regulatory services, including Local Government Units (LGUs) to ensure synchronized and transparent policies on regulation; and
5. To promote cooperation on regulatory-related initiatives, including capacity and capability building initiatives across the DA regulatory units.

II. Scope and Coverage

This Department Order covers the following operating units:

1. Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Project Development, R&D and Regulations (OPP)
2. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations (OASR)
3. Policy Research Service (PRS)
4. Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
5. Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
6. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
7. Other Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs) per the Food Safety Act of 2013 and its IRR
8. Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)
9. Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)
10. Philippine Fiber Development Authority (PhilFIDA)
11. National Tobacco Authority (NTA)
12. DA Information and Communications Technology Service (DA-ICTS)
13. DA Regional Offices

III. Institutional Structure and Terms of Reference

There shall be an Executive Committee of the DA Regulatory Team (DART) composed of the following:

- a. Chairman : Undersecretary for Policy and Planning,
Project Development, R & D and
Regulation
- b. Vice Chairman: Assistant Secretary for Regulation
- c. Members : Director – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources (BFAR)
Director – Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
Director – Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
Executive Director – National Meat
Inspection Service (NMIS)
Administrator – National Dairy Authority
(NDA)
Administrator – Sugar Regulatory
Administration (SRA)
Director – Bureau of Agriculture and
Fisheries Standards (BAFS)
Director – Policy Research Service (PRS)
Executive Director – Philippine Fiber
Development Authority
(PhilFIDA)
Administrator – National Tobacco
Administration (NTA)

The Executive Committee shall be the policy governing body of the DART. The executive committee shall provide organizational direction on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture, and provides leadership to the various work streams if necessary, making sure that the objectives are met.

Under the general supervision of the DA Undersecretary for Planning, Policy, R&D and Regulation, a DART is hereby created to oversee the implementation of this Department Order. It shall be composed of a Chairperson and Lead Coordinators (LCs) with specific core assignments deemed necessary to streamline and harmonize the DA regulatory services.

The Chairperson and the LCs shall work with the offices and agencies listed in Section II of this Order. Towards this end, they are hereby authorized to establish their respective sub-committees and working arrangements as necessary and appropriate.

The core work streams are:

1. General coordination on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Concerns
2. Implementation of the Food Safety Act of 2013
3. Harmonization of DA Laboratory Services
4. Harmonization of DA Quarantine Services
5. Harmonization of DA RO Regulatory Services
6. Development and Maintenance of the DA Trade Information System
7. General Coordination in the Implementation of Joint Department Circular 1 Series of 2016 (JDC1 s 2016)

The OASR shall designate a general Secretariat to provide technical and administrative support to the DART in the conduct of its tasks.

DART Composition and Responsibilities

A. Chairperson : The Assistant Secretary for Regulation.

1. Provide overall leadership and guidance to the DART in carrying out the various work streams prescribed in this Order.
2. Supervise the implementation of the various work streams, including preparation of work and financial plans and monitoring of budget utilization.
3. Update the Secretary thru the OPP on the progress of work and accomplishments.
4. Provide policy recommendations to further enhance the harmonization and strengthening of DA regulatory services.

The Chairperson shall designate a Vice Chairperson from among the LCs.

B. Lead Coordinators shall be designated for the following work streams with their corresponding duties and responsibilities.

1. **General Coordination on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Concerns**
 - a) Serve as the National SPS Contact Point and lead coordinator of the DA SPS Focal Group.
 - b) Supervise the operations of the Philippine SPS National Notification Authority and Enquiry Point; ensure active and updated SPS e-Portal and other web-based SPS-related services to be established

such as DA/PHIL RASFF, INFOSAN, and others as these are developed.

- c) Review and monitor technical assistance/capacity building activities to ensure consistency with DA SPS policy priorities and needs.
- d) In coordination/consultation with concerned operating units and other relevant offices
 - i. review and consolidate policies, rules and regulations on SPS and organize the required internal review and public consultations on issuances affecting stakeholders;
 - ii. provide policy inputs in formulating/amending SPS measures as necessary and in addressing implementation issues;
 - iii. provide inputs in addressing bilateral SPS concerns with trading partners as well as country positions for multilateral organizations.

2. Implementation of the Food Safety Act of 2013, and other food safety laws.

- a. Develop an action plan for the implementation of the FSA of 2013 and other food safety laws in accordance with its IRR and the requirements stipulated therein, to include among others:
 - i. Conduct of consultation, advocacy and information campaign on promoting awareness and understanding of the Act and its IRR for both public and private sector stakeholders at the national and local levels.
 - ii. Program for technical assistance and capability building support on meeting the requirements of the Food Safety Act.
 - iii. Drafting of subsidiary issuances, specific guidelines and procedures in support of the IRR in the form of Administrative Circulars, Orders, or other appropriate legal issuances at the national and local levels for the approval of the Secretary.
- b. Serve as the Codex Contact Point and oversee DA participation in Codex Work, as well as recommend policies and procedures for the country's participation at Codex.

3. Harmonization of DA Laboratory Services

- a. Develop and oversee the implementation of a national action plan on harmonizing all laboratory services provided by the DA national agencies and the DA ROs through the Regional Integrated Agricultural Laboratory Divisions.
- b. Synchronize plans and efforts with the NFA-FDC on harmonization of food safety laboratory services particularly in line with the latter's role and responsibilities as Coordinating Laboratory for DA Laboratories as stipulated in the FSA 2013 and its IRR (Section 16, Rules 16.11-16.15).
- c. Develop and oversee the implementation of an integrated program for overall development, including but not limited to, accreditation, certification, proficiency testing and training for laboratories.
- d. Develop, establish and maintain the DA National Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

4. Harmonization of DA Quarantine Services

- a. Oversee the smooth transition from a commodity-based regulatory approach to an integrated risk-based management approach.
- b. Design and implement capacity and capability building activities on strengthening quarantine and inspection functions and services under a "one DA Quarantine Service" rather than a separate, commodity-focused service.
- c. Coordinate and work hand in hand with the DA Anti-Smuggling Units and other anti-smuggling groups.
- d. Recommend to the Office of the Secretary through the OPP the designation of a Regional Quarantine Coordinator per region who shall be the official representative of the OASR in the region on Quarantine Matters and consolidate and submit reports to the OASR.

5. Harmonization of DA RO Regulatory Services

- a. Monitor and report on the implementation of regulatory activities in the regions such as but not limited to:
 - i. licensing, registration, and accreditation of agricultural business operations.

- ii. Implementation of Codes of Good Practice (GAP, GAHP, GAqP, including organic agriculture standards).
- iii. Post-market surveillance, if any, and
- iv. Other regulatory service
- b. Ensure effective coordination between and/or among National Competent Authorities/FSRAs and ROs on the conduct of regulatory activities, identify issues and concerns on implementation, and provide recommendations to address these.
- c. Recommend to the Office of the Secretary through the OPP the designation of a Regional Regulatory Services Coordinator per region who shall be the official representative of the OASR in the region on Regulatory Matters (except quarantine services) and consolidate and submit reports to the OASR.

6. Development and Maintenance of the DA Trade Information System

- a. Development of DA-owned electronic certification system in coordination with appropriate government agencies.
- b. Capacity building on IT and e-certification system for DA Officers.
- c. Improving interconnectivity at identified critical Quarantine Stations.
- d. Develop and put-up a unified information data banking system of the DA Quarantine Services in importation and exportation of agricultural products.

7. General Coordination in the Implementation of Joint Department Circular 1 Series of 2016 (JDC1 s 2016)

- a. Ensure the implementation of the principles and policies set in the JDC1 s 2016 (DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No. 1, series of 2016 – Rules and Regulation for the Research and Development, Handling and Use, Transboundary Movement, Release into the Environment, and Management of Genetically Modified Plant and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology)
- b. Ensure effective coordination among the National Competent Authorities (DENR, DOH, DOST, DILG) on the conduct of regulatory activities
- c. Identify and draft DA issuances and guidelines in support of the JDC
- d. Liaise with the DOST in the identification, design and conduct of capability and capacity building activities on biosafety

- e. Coordinate with the CNAs and conduct consultations on the negotiations of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

IV. Implementation Arrangements

The Chairperson of the DART shall immediately call for an organizational meeting to discuss the various work streams. Henceforth, the DART shall meet regularly to discuss progress of work, accomplishments, issues and problems encountered, and recommendations for improved delivery of work. Report on the meetings shall be prepared and submitted to the Secretary.

Expenses relative to the implementation of this Order shall be shouldered by the OASR with the support of the concerned operating units as necessary.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked. All other Orders inconsistent hereto are deemed revoked or amended.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IN REPLYING PLEASE CITE THIS CODE :

For Signature: S-12-15-0108

Received : 12/02/2015 02:35 PM