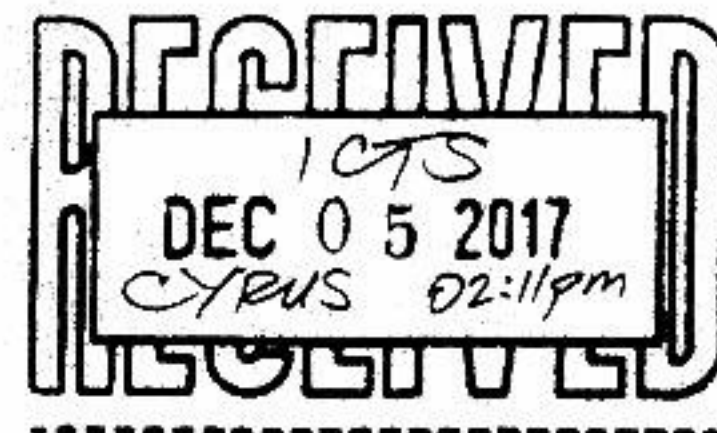




Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 928-8762 to 65



27 July 2017

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 43

Series of 2017

SUBJECT : GENERAL GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CASSAVA MODEL FARM

Cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) is one of the important agricultural crops in the country due to its increasing demand as food or as an ingredient for animal feeds. It also has numerous uses as raw material in the production of starch, flour, and alcohol.¹

In 2015, the volume of production reached up to 2.719 million metric tons and with a national yield of 12.53 mt/hectare. With the level of production, about 70% of the demand was supported by the local cassava industry.

Though there is a continuous increase in the production of cassava over the last ten years, the demand of cassava for food and feeds is also increasing.

To address these problems and to encourage other regions to increase the cassava production yield, the Department of Agriculture, thru its National Corn Program, shall be implementing the Cassava Model Farm Project starting in 2018 and shall be continued in the succeeding years.

The project shall aim the following objectives:

- Increase productivity (yield) of at least 20 mt/hectare;
- Reduce production costs through farm mechanization; and
- Produce quality cassava tubers and planting materials.

¹ National Cassava Roadmap 2015-2022

This Project shall be implemented under the following Implementing Guidelines:

I. General Guidelines

A. Area Selection

1. The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) shall identify at least one (1) model farm from the cassava cluster. The cluster area must be geotagged and represent the major production areas in the region.
2. The model farm/s should be within or part of the cassava cluster area/s, with each site having a minimum area of twenty (20) hectares and a maximum of fifty (50) hectares.
3. Cluster cooperator should be managed by a Farmer Organization (Associations or Cooperatives) and should be registered under the Department of Labor and Employment, Cooperative Development Authority or the Securities and Exchange Commission.
4. The cluster-cooperator should have an operational farm tractor and cassava chipper/granulator to be used in the model farm.
5. The RFO should gather the baseline data, and that includes area, yield, and production cost before the establishment of the model farm.

B. Provision of Support Services

1. Cassava planting materials (variety best adopted in the area), fertilizers, soil ameliorants and bio-control agents needed for the model farm shall be provided by the RFO.
2. Fertilizer rate shall be based on the result of soil analysis and planting materials should be treated with antibiotic before planting following the established protocols.
3. The RFO, in cooperation with ATI, shall provide necessary trainings on increasing productivity, farm mechanization, post-harvest operations, business management, and strengthening of organization and other capacity-building activities.
4. RFO shall determine and provide the necessary production and post-harvest machineries or equipment and facilities to decrease the cost of production, increase yield, and improve the quality of cassava produce in the model farm.

C. Market Linkage

1. RFO, through AMAD, should facilitate in linking the cluster-cooperator to a potential market/buyer of the produce right after the establishment of the model farm.

D. Project Sustainability

1. Cassava cuttings produced from the model farms shall be distributed among the members of the cluster and other adjacent cassava farms.
2. The equivalent amount of fertilizers to be provided by the RFO shall be collected by the management of the cluster-cooperator and used in the succeeding cropping seasons.

E. Monitoring and Reporting Scheme

1. RFO shall designate a staff per model farm to gather baseline data, provide technical assistance, monitor the progress of the project, and submit monthly reports to the Regional Executive Director.
2. The RFO shall submit the consolidated reports to the Field Programs Operational Planning Division (FPOPD).
3. The FPOPD shall consolidate the progress reports of RFOs and submit it to the Office of the National Corn Program Coordinator.

F. Submission of Proposals

1. A proposal on the establishment of the model farm/s must be submitted for approval of the National Corn Program Coordinator through FPOPD.

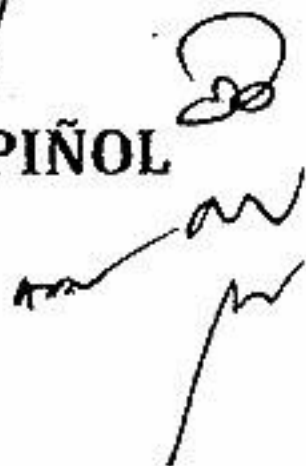
II. Supplemental Guidelines

RFOs may formulate/craft supplemental guidelines to facilitate the implementation and ensure suitability to local situations. Any deviation in the general implementing guidelines must seek written approval from the National Corn Program Coordinator.

III. Effectivity

This Memorandum Order shall take effect upon approval and shall remain valid until revoked in writing.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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