



02 May 2018

Memorandum Order

No. 14

Series of 2018

Subject: Implementing Guidelines for the Hybrid Rice Model Farm Project

I. PROJECT PURPOSE

The Hybrid Rice Model Farm Project (HRMF) is an extension intervention companion to the High Yield Technology Adoption for Hybrid Rice (HYTA-HR) Project of the 2017-22 Rice Industry Roadmap for Development (RIRD) This shall showcase localized packages of high yield and profitable hybrid rice cultivation-harvesting technologies, techniques and systems.

II. PROJECT SCOPE

A. Project Duration:

The project starts in the Wet Season of 2018 and shall continue until the Dry Season 2022-2023, thus encompassing rice plantings from March 16, 2018 to March 15, 2023.

B. Project Coverage:

1. Location: All 16 regions with rice producing provinces tagged as priority for rice hybridization (Refer to Annex: List of Priority Provinces for Rice Hybridization). It may also be set up in provinces not currently included in the hybridization priority list but to a smaller scale.
2. Ecosystem: Irrigated lowland and Rainfed lowland.
3. HRMF Clusters: These are smaller units within the delineated HYTA-HR zones consisting of generally contiguous or adjacent rice farm lots with aggregate area of 5 to 10 hectares wherein the farmer cultivators agree to participate in the project. Larger HRMF clusters of up to about 25 hectares may be established if participating farmers agree to partly shoulder the cost of seeds and fertilizer inputs required for the expanded area.

III. PROJECT TARGETS

Performance indicators for successful management of HRMF cluster are as follows:

- a. Wet Season - the average dry palay (with 14% moisture content) yield is at least 6 mt/ha and the average cost of production (combining both

cash and non-cash expenses including imputed costs) does not exceed Php 9.00 per kilogram of dry palay.

- b. Dry Season – the average dry palay (with 14% moisture content) yield is at least 7.5 mt/ha and the average cost of production (combining both cash and non-cash expenses including imputed costs) does not exceed Php 7.00 per kilogram of dry palay.

IV. PROJECT FEATURES

1. Crops shall be established using a mechanical transplanter and/or direct seeder for at least one (1) site within the HRMF cluster. Further, all harvesting operations shall use a combine harvester.
2. Use of mechanical dryer when available is preferred especially for Wet Season harvest but conventional sun drying may be practiced.
3. Participating farmers may also sell their produce as fresh palay.
4. The Rice Crop Manager (RCM) and/or soil analysis shall be used to generate specific crop management recommendations to the model farm. Fertilizer recommendation shall be provided to the recipients. Soil ameliorants can also be given as input to the model farm. The DA-Regional Field Offices (RFOs) shall procure the inputs.
5. At least one (1) site practicing the System for Rice Intensification (SRI) shall be established for every region. Only the seeds and crop nutrient source shall be provided as DA grant. Appropriate institutional partner proficient on the SRI shall be engaged.
6. All participating farmer cultivators shall be required to attend project briefing/s, harvest festivals and other related project activities.

V. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SET-UP

A. Identification of Clusters:

1. The National Rice Program Secretariat shall release the list of 2018 and 2019 priority provinces tagged for hybridization separately and the latest list shall be updated annually provided that provinces already in the list shall continue to be included in the succeeding years.
2. A minimum of one (1) new cluster shall be established within 200 hectares of HYTA-HR project zones of RIRD program areas as delineated by the DA RFO provided that there shall be at least one (1) cluster for each municipality within the zone.
3. More clusters shall be established in zones and municipalities wherein soils, microclimate, and socio economic status of farmers are highly variable. Generally, smaller but adjacent individual farm lots are preferred choices for HRMF clusters.
4. In provinces not currently included in the hybridization priority list, clusters may be set up in smaller scale but should pass the suitability criteria for the HYTA-HR project zones. This will be subject to approval by the National Rice Program Coordinator. Main consideration shall be the localization strategic interventions for provinces in the 2017-2022 Rice Industry Roadmap for Development.

5. Clusters operated under the 2017 guidelines may be continued in the 2018 Wet Season provided these are in HYTA-HR project zones or the site pass the suitability criteria. The implementation in all clusters shall be solely thru the guidelines prescribed in this Memorandum Order.
6. Clusters may also be established in "favorable" rainfed rice areas.
7. Clusters should be generally accessible for field days and field visits.
8. HRMF clustered farm lots shall be geo-referenced. Farmer participants must be included in the updated field registry.

B. Implementers and Partners:

1. RFO shall collaborate with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist to identify HRMF cluster in the province in consultation with Municipal Agriculturist of targeted municipalities.
2. HRMF clusters shall be established and managed in collaboration with the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.
3. Partnership or collaboration with private companies is encouraged.
4. Irrigators associations, farmers associations, rural-based cooperatives, or other community-based organizations shall be engaged as institutional partners who will be the DA grant recipients. Criteria and process for engaging of institutional partners shall be set independently by each RFO.

C. Input Grants:

1. DA shall provide NSIC-registered hybrid rice varieties recommended for the season and location by the National Rice Program, Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the RFOs with fertilizers required for 5 to 10 hectares as grant to the institutional partner. However, no single participating farmer shall receive DA input grant for more than twenty percent (20%) of the 5 to 10 hectares cluster area.
2. Recommended hybrid rice varieties shall be in bags of 15 to 18 kilograms per hectare. Packaging of smaller bags of 3 kg, 5 kg, and 6 kg can also be made available.
3. The inputs shall be distributed thru the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO).


D. Monitoring and Evaluation:

1. The MAO, assisted by the RFO and assigned local farmer technician, shall undertake gathering of necessary data.
2. The information and reporting system shall be established by the National Rice Program for the monitoring and evaluation of results of the HRMF.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES:

The DA RFOs and DAF-ARMM are hereby authorized to formulate detailed supplementary guidelines to address peculiar situations in the regions. These supplemental guidelines shall be subject to approval of the National Rice Program Coordinator.

All previous issuances including supplemental guidelines of Regional Field Offices inconsistent herewith are superseded by this Memorandum Order and this shall take effect upon approval and remain valid until revoked in writing.


EMMANUEL F. PINOL

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY)

In replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-05-18-0026

Received : 05/03/2018 09:48 AM