

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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13 June 2018

Administrative Order No. 05
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SUBJECT: GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, EXTENSION NETWORK (RRDEN) FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Rule 81.14.3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) or RA 8435 mandates the DA Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs), under the guidance of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to develop and maintain a network of regional and provincial collaborators in undertaking the regional RDE programs. Consistent herewith and pursuant to AFMA, the Regional Research and Development, Extension Network (RRDEN) for Agriculture and Fisheries was created for each region.

In cognizance of the importance of the regional network and rationalizing RDE efforts at the regional level, BAR continuously provides technical and financial support in the operation of RRDEN in all regions.

Therefore, the following guidelines and procedures of the RRDEN for agriculture and fisheries are hereby issued for guidance of all regional RDE partner institutions:

I. PURPOSE OF THE NETWORK

The purpose of the RRDEN is to strengthen the regional RDE priority setting and implementation of projects/programs on agriculture and fisheries sector, to contribute to an empowered R&D system which will lead to expanded economic opportunities for those who are engaged in producing agriculture, fisheries, and forest products particularly small and subsistence farmers and fisherfolk.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

The RRDEN has the following objectives:

1. Ensure complementation of RDE programs and activities among research and development institutions as determined by the national priorities set by BAR and the regional priorities set by the DA-RFOs/BFAR RFOs;
2. Effectively develop, promote, and transfer information/technologies to farmers/fisherfolk and other end-users;

3. Ensure efficient use and utilization of resources in RDE programs through the complementation within network and;
4. Strengthen and sustain linkages and partnerships among research agencies/institutions within the region.

III MEMBERSHIP

The RRDEN is open, but not limited, to government and private institutions engaged in research, development, and extension in agriculture and fisheries; government institutions include State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), National Government Agencies (NGAs), Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Local Government Units (LGUs) whereas private institutions include cooperatives, Non-government Organizations (NGOs), private colleges and universities, and private enterprise and corporation.

IV. FUNCTIONS

1. The Regional Research and Development, Extension Network (RRDEN)

The RRDEN under the leadership of the DA RFO/BFAR RFO through its Research Division, shall perform the following functions:

- a. Set direction and guidance in the regional RDE agenda, program and policy formulation as aligned with the current goals of the national government;
- b. Serve as a clearing house for all RDE programs, projects and activities emanating from the members of RRDEN for submission to BAR;
- c. Ensure all BAR-funded RDE projects in the region are monitored and evaluated;
- d. Guarantee the continuous conduct of capacity building activities related to agriculture and fisheries RDE sector among RRDEN members;
- e. Organize and participate in regional and national technology promotion and marketing activities of BAR-funded R&D programs and projects;
- f. Consolidate regional R&D outputs to support national RDE agenda and programs and;
- g. Conduct periodic assessment of the performance of the member-agencies based on their contribution to the objectives of the RRDEN.

2. The Lead Agency – DA-Regional Field Office / BFAR Regional Field Office

- a. Overall management and operation of the RRDEN shall be the responsibility of the lead agency;
- b. Spearhead meetings and other activities for the fulfillment of the objectives of the RRDEN;
- c. Be responsible for the maintenance, operation, and optimum utilization of the RRDEN Office;
- d. Ensure that the RRDEN Office is made accessible to the members of the network that may need its services;
- e. Ensure funding support for all RRDEN activities and;
- f. Provide secretariat support to the RRDEN.

3. The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)

- a. Provide guidance in formulating and updating of Regional Integrated Research and Development, Extension Agenda and Program (RIRDEAP);
- b. Participate in identifying regional RDE priorities, formulating/updating of regional plans and programs, monitoring and evaluation of projects and other RRDEN activities;
- c. Spearhead the development of mechanisms, guidelines and systems for effective coordination, planning of research and development projects;
- d. Conduct periodic assessment of the RRDEN's performance and;
- e. Ensure that research and development projects and relevant activities are properly prioritized for funding support.

4. The Members of RRDEN

Member-agencies are expected to fully cooperate and support the operations of RRDEN. Each member agency is expected to:

- a. Designate a permanent and an alternate representative, preferably involved in RDE, who will represent their respective agency to the various activities of the network;
- b. Actively participate in regional RDE agenda setting, prioritization, formulation of regional plans and programs, preparation of proposals, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects, conduct of trainings among others;

- c. Complement research resources including but not limited to manpower, expertise, knowledge, equipment, facilities, and experimental areas to other member-agencies for conduct of collaborative RDE projects and;
- d. As agreed upon by the network, may provide logistics and venue for joint activities such as consultations, dialogues, meetings, conferences and workshops.

V. OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

1. The RRDEN shall be strategically located within the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO). The DA-RFO, particularly the Research Division shall take the lead in all the activities of the network.
2. The network's establishment and operation shall be governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between and among member-institutions, duly signed by their respective heads.
3. The network shall establish a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), a policy making body to facilitate decisions and direction. Similarly, a Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) shall be created to ensure effective implementation of RRDEN's activities.
4. The RRDEN meetings shall be held twice (2x) a year, while special meetings may be held as the need arises.
5. The network shall align its programs and activities with the DA's thrusts and priorities, by formulating/updating the Regional Integrated RDE Agenda and Program (RIRDEAP) and policies in agriculture and fisheries.
6. Meetings of RAC shall be held semi-annually, specifically for the approval of decisions while meetings of RTWG may be held quarterly when needed.
7. Performance assessment of the RRDEN shall be conducted periodically to evaluate the accomplishments and deliverables vis-à-vis objectives and target.
8. Expenses for the operations and management of RRDEN shall be charged against the regional networking funds subject to existing accounting and auditing rules. Other expenses may be sponsored by member agencies.

VI. FUNDING SUPPORT

1. Funding of the operations of the RRDEN shall be provided by BAR based on the approved networking proposal and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between BAR and concerned lead agency;

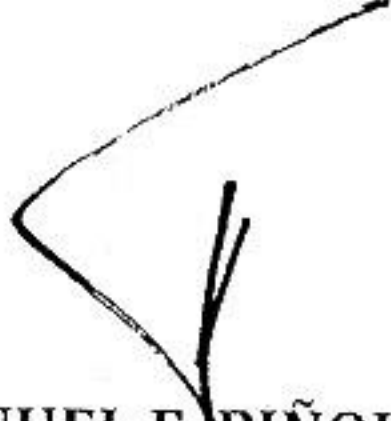
2. BAR may provide funding on collaborative RDE projects and activities of RRDEN as well as individual research projects of member-agencies, duly endorsed by the DA-RFO Head, subject to the review and evaluation of proposals. The network may also explore other donors or funding agencies especially for identified concerns beyond the mandate and priorities of BAR.
3. BAR financial support to RRDEN is subject to existing BAR guidelines and procedures for R&D system, and consistent with the accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES

The RRDEN may prepare and implement specific guidelines in the operations of the network that are deemed necessary for the successful implementation of programs and activities.

VIII. EFFECTIVITY

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall supersede other issuances that are inconsistent herewith.


EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

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