



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

July 18, 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 09
Series of 2018.

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE AGRO-FORESTRY PROGRAM TO PRIMARILY AND INITIALLY INCLUDE THE *TREE FARMING PROGRAM* AS AN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

WHEREAS, *Republic Act 7900*, otherwise known as the "*High-Value Crops Development Act of 1995*" states that "(t)he State shall effect an efficient use of land and other productive resources with due regard to ecological balance and environmental protection, rural development, equity consideration, mobilization of human resources, and increased agro-industrial production for the alleviation of poverty and sustainable growth objectives.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to protect the agricultural system to minimize, if not to eradicate, the impact of climate change;

WHEREAS, protecting the agricultural system necessitates the maintenance of healthy and productive soil and the prevention of soil erosion;

WHEREAS, studies show that soil erosion has been considered as a major threat in agricultural productivity;

WHEREAS, in its efforts to contribute in environmental protection, to restore the country's denuded forests, to protect watershed areas, and to prevent landslides and soil erosion towards agricultural productivity, this Department needs to adopt and implement a comprehensive agro-forestry program;

WHEREAS, to sustain agricultural productivity, the agro-forestry program shall be included as an agricultural activity;

WHEREAS, sustained agricultural productivity generates more income for the farmers;

WHEREAS, to effect the said program, the Department shall integrate the "*Tree Farming Program*" (TFP) which shall include planting of fast growing tree species such as *falcata*, *acacia mangium*, *eucalyptus*, or *gmelina* into the High Value Crops Development Program, a move that is aimed at reshaping the agricultural landscape of the country and ensuring that landslides and soil erosion would be prevented;

WHEREAS, Tree Farming will now be differentiated from the simple Tree Planting Program and categorized as an agricultural activity;

WHEREAS, being an agricultural activity, and to increase productivity of high value crops, intercropping of trees and coffee, cacao, abaca, or black pepper, among other high value crops, shall be implemented in mountainous, sloping and undulating agricultural areas.

WHEREAS, increasing agricultural productivity equates to increased income for farmer towards poverty eradication;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, hereby adopts and directs the Department of Agriculture for the immediate implementation of a comprehensive agro-forestry program to primarily include the *Tree Farming Program* as an agricultural activity under the High Value Crops Development Program.

1. The TFP shall include planting of fast growing tree species such as falcata, acacia mangium, eucalyptus, or gmelina, and the like under the High Value Crops Development Program.
2. Trees and coffee, cacao, abaca, or black pepper, and other high value crops shall be intercropped in mountainous, sloping and undulating agricultural areas.
3. The TFP shall be implemented to benefit, among others, the Indigenous People under the Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4Ks) program of the Department of Agriculture.
4. Concerned offices are likewise directed to coordinate with the Department of Environment of Natural Resources, the Department of Interior and Local Government and other concerned agencies in the implementation of this Administrative Order.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately and supersedes all prior issuances inconsistent herewith.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
in replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-08-18-0426
Received : 08/30/2018 08:17 AM