



**September 17, 2018**

**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

**No. 32**

**Series of 2018**

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE COLLECTION, CHARACTERIZATION, CONSERVATION, AND UTILIZATION OF TRADITIONAL CORN VARIETIES**

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WHEREAS, Section 2 (Declaration Policy) of REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7308 – An Act to promote and develop the seed industry in the Philippines and create a National Seed Industry Council(NSIC) and for other purposes, states that:

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and accelerate the development of the seed industry and, for this purpose, the government shall:

1. Conserve, preserve, and develop the plant genetic resources of the nation;
2. Encourage and hasten the organization of all sectors engaged in the industry, integrate all their activities, and provide assistance to them;
3. Encourage the private sector to engage in seed research and development and in mass production and distribution of good quality seeds; and
4. Provide the local seed industry protection against unfair competition from imported seeds.

In order to efficiently implement the above Act, the following guidelines is hereby issued:

**A. Creation of Regional Technical Working Group (TWG)**

All Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) shall organize a Technical Working Group (TWG) headed by the Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Research and Regulation to efficiently implement all relevant activities related to the subject of this memorandum.

**B. Collection and Characterization of Traditional Corn Varieties**

The DA-RFOs shall do the following:

- a. Collect traditional corn varieties historically adapted to the local growing conditions and with quality preferred by the local populace.
- b. Conduct characterization of collected traditional corn varieties for basic agro-morphological characteristics with the guidance of University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) through Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) – Corn Germplasm Utilization Thru Advanced R&D (CGUARD) Program. The UPLB through the IPB-National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL), in collaboration with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), shall submit to the NSIC list of traditional corn varieties with detailed description including morphological and agronomic characteristics.

## **B. Conduct of Yield Trial of Traditional Corn Varieties**

- a. The DA-RFOs shall conduct yield trial of traditional corn varieties in accordance with the Corn and Sorghum National Cooperative Testing planting guidelines. The region may add other parameters as bases for varietal recommendation.
- b. The IPB-UPLB, through CGUARD, shall assist in the formulation of Varietal Acceptability Index (VAI) which is a composite rating for yield, agronomic and quality traits to compare the different entries tested.
- c. The UPLB – IPB shall draft seed quality standards for traditional corn varieties to be recommended to NSIC,

## **C. Production and Distribution**

- a. VAI-compliant seeds can be used in production programs of the DA or local government units (LGUs).

## **D. Other Support Services**

- a. The DA, through BAR, shall provide general direction to support activities related in the implementation and promotion of the CGUARD program.
- b. The DA-BAR shall assist in the coordination of research activities both at the national and regional levels.
- c. The DA through the National Corn Program shall provide the logistic support in the implementation of the above activities.

This Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately.

**EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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