MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 06
Series of 2019

SUBJECT: AMENDED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GULAYAN SA PAARALAN (GSP)

Section 1. BASIC POLICY

Consistent with the goal of the Department of Agriculture to attain food self-reliance and self-sufficiency, it is the policy of the state to empower its constituencies by enhancing their capability to produce their own food through adoption of various technologies on food production and on vegetable growing.

Section 2. OBJECTIVES

Promote self-help food production activities and values among children for the appreciation of agriculture as a life support system.

Specifically, the program aims to:

- Reintroduce basic agriculture to the primary and secondary grades in the Philippine School System through vegetable gardening.

- Promote vegetable production of indigenous vegetables through natural farming in public elementary and high schools;

- Establish/maintain school gardens to serve as food basket / main source of vegetables to sustain supplementary feeding of the students;

- Showcase small-scale food production model in schools for the households / communities to replicate, and purposefully to promote family food security.

- Promote the consumption of vegetables, which have rich sources of protein, vitamins, minerals and fibers among the students, their households, and the local community.

- Serve as a model for small-scale vegetable production and source of seeds that would ensure the sustainability and continuity of the program.

- Preserve, educate students on, and utilize in school feeding program indigenous vegetables.
• Promote Agribusiness of agricultural products especially or high value crops.

• Establish a group / volunteers in schools that can spread the information of gulayan project.

• Build strong partnerships and linkages between the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Education (DepED), the Local Government, Civil Society organizations (CSOs), and other public and private organizations.

• Contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Section 3. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

• The program will cover all public elementary and high schools in 16 regions and the National Capital Region.

Section 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Gulayan sa Paaralan Garden – a single piece of land, or several patches of land within the school established and maintained with and through the students and can be used to reconnect students to the source of their food.

Seed Bank – serves as nursery or source of seeds and planting materials, particularly indigenous vegetables used for seed/crop exchange in the establishment of school gardens.

Indigenous Vegetables – crops produced, living or existing naturally in a particular region or environment.

Section 5. PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. Establishment of Gulayan sa Paaralan Garden and Seed Bank

A school vegetable garden established inside the school compound. It shall serve as source of food and seeds to the community as model farm garden replicated in the household. If the space is available, establishment of a crop museum shall also be an option for the community to adopt with the purpose of saving different crop varieties (e.g. indigenous vegetable).

2. Capacitating the Beneficiaries

Training programs on establishment and maintenance of Gulayan sa Paaralan gardens shall be implemented by ATI through the coordination of DA-RFOs. Components of the training program shall include growing of vegetables and home-saved seed production. On the other hand, conduct specialized trainings that are important for the sustainability of the program.

3. Program Management
The Department of Agriculture (DA) thru the Office of Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit shall serve as the program management office (PMO). As such, it shall be responsible for planning, implementation, evaluation, and assessment of the program. It shall render reports to the concerned DA offices.

The Regional Gulayan sa Paaralan Team shall also be created to ensure proper coordination with concerned LGUs and other government agencies in the successful implementation of the program.

Section 6. STRATEGIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among concerned National Agencies (Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Education (DepEd), International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and the Philippine Seed Industry Association (PSIA), shall be signed by each Department Secretaries and head of organization to commence the implementation of the Program.

2. Creation of Gulayan sa Paaralan Team in the Region/Province/Municipal to conduct the following activities

   A. Masterlisting

      Master list should indicate the name of schools, addresses, population, preferred vegetables be planted, focal persons, and other pertinent information and shall be submitted by DepEd to DA-RFUs.

   B. Social Preparation

      Social preparation and value formation shall be conducted by identified focal person of Gulayan sa Paaralan Implementing Team. All focal persons and others who will be involved in the program shall undergo social preparation.

   C. Training

      LGUs in partnership with DA-RFUs/ATI and NGOs/POs shall coordinate with DepEd in the conduct of trainings. The trainings shall cover topics on growing vegetables, organic fertilizer production, pest and disease management, home saved seed production, container/backyard gardening and others;

   D. Establishment of school gardens

      Initially, the DA-RFUs will provide inputs to schools in coordination with the DepEd. This will include assorted seeds of preferred vegetables (Open Pollinated Varieties) and a "how to grow" instruction. Provision of planting materials of indigenous vegetables and root crops.

      - Schools will receive seeds directly at the same time informing the Department of Education (DepEd) in the respective region.
3. Launch a competition on best school gardens by district as defined by the DepEd. This is to sustain the program and to generate enthusiasms and interest.

4. Government / DA stations provide quality seeds and plant materials. Philippine Seed Industry Association (PSIA) is going to be the source of procurement of materials that are not available in government facilities.

5. The training and preparation (through the coordination with ATI) of teachers at the local levels (known as Agri-Teachers) to ensure project sustainability.

6. The Gulayan sa Paaralan Local School Implementation Plan shall contain sustainability schemes for each school. They are required to submit the schemes before actual implementation of the Program.

7. Partnership and collaboration with People’s Organizations, NGOs, Churches and Youth Groups will be encouraged.

**Section 7. QUALIFICATIONS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

1. Each school shall have at least a minimum of two hundred square meter (200 m²) vacant lot for use as school garden, or the equivalent in several patches of land. For schools that do not have vacant lots, they can work on or adopt container gardening technology;

2. The school shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of school gardens as well as the production of seeds for the next cropping;

3. The School should assign a focal person (Agri-Teacher) willing and capable to supervise the program.

4. The Gulayan sa Paaralan should be mainstreamed in the programs and activities of DepEd.

5. Parent Teachers Associations (PTA) should actively collaborate with the school in the establishment and maintenance of school gardens.

6. The school feeding program will be supplemented by the harvest coming from the school farm. Part of the harvest can also be sold and the profit will be used to maintain the school farm.

**Section 8. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN**

1. DA / ATI and DepEd shall take the lead in the promotion of the program.

2. The promotion of the program is via Quad-media.
3. Participation of the private sector and Peoples Organizations / NGOs shall be encouraged in promoting vegetable production and consumption.

Section 9. COMPOSITION OF GULAYAN SA PAARALAN AND THEIR CORRESPONDING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In the interest of the service and in order to effectively implement the plans and programs of the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program, various committees are hereby created composed of the following:

Program Implementation Committee (PIC)

Chair: Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit
Members:
Permanent:
Undersecretary for Operations
Undersecretary for Special Concerns
Director, Bureau of Plant Industry
Director, Agricultural Training Institute

Alternate:
__________________________, High Value Crops and Rural Credit
__________________________, Operations
__________________________, Special Concerns
__________________________, Bureau of Plant Industry
__________________________, Agricultural Training Institute
__________________________, Field Operations Service

Functions:
1. Review and Approve the annual plans and budget of the program
2. Review progress of program implementation
3. Formulate additional guidelines
4. Perform oversight function
5. Shall meet twice a year for the planning, updating and progress reporting

Program Management Office (PMO)

Chair: Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit
Members:
(To be named)

Functions:
1. Plan, implement, evaluate, and report progress and accomplishment of the program to the Program Implementation Committee (PIC)
2. Establish links and coordinate with private partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and LGUs.

Regional Gulayan sa Paaralan Team

Chair: Regional Executive Director, RFO_
Vice-Chair: Regional Technical Director, RTD, FOD
Members:
Gulayan sa Paaralan Focal Person
Focal Person, High Value Crops Development Program
Regional Information Officer
Center Chief, Agricultural Training Institute
Chief, Planning Division
Chief, Budget Division

Functions:
1. Provide initial agricultural inputs (e.g. open pollinated varieties of vegetable seeds).
2. Establish links and coordinate with private partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and LGUs.
3. Ensures smooth implementation of the program.
4. Coordinate with ATI on the training programs on establishment and maintenance of school vegetable gardens.
5. Document project implementation.
6. Ensure project information dissemination/ campaign
7. Submit report to PMO.

Section 10. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Office of Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit – Coordinate in planning and monitoring of the program with the Department of Education. It shall also establish links and coordinate with private partners and organizations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and LGUs.

Office of Undersecretary for Special Concerns - Assist in the planning, coordinating and monitoring of the programs feeding component with various Agencies. It shall also independently, or in cooperation with, establish linkages with private partners and organization, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and the LGUs.

Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) – The ATI shall conduct the needed training programs in line with the different components of the program. In addition, ATI shall also develop the appropriate modules for each training session conducted.

DA Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) – Provision of technical assistance and agricultural inputs shall be done by the designated Gulayan sa Paaralan Focal Person. The RFOs shall submit a monthly report to the PMO (Office of Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit). It shall closely coordinate with ATI for the training of the identified beneficiaries for the establishment and maintenance of the school garden and its facilities.
Section 11. DOCUMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Develop an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system to track progress of program implementation, identify problems and bottlenecks and enable the program implementers to institute corrective measures when necessary.

Section 12. EFFECTIVITY

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

APPROVED:

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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