



Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

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**TO : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, OSEC
SERVICE DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS/DIRECTORS OF
BANNER PROGRAMS**

**HEADS OF BUREAUS, ATTACHED AGENCIES/CORPORATIONS
AND REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES**

HEADS OF LOCALLY AND FOREIGN ASSISTED PROJECT OFFICES

**SUBJECT : DA, TESDA, PSABE AND AMMDA COLLABORATION TO
ACCELERATE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF
AGRI-FISHERY MACHINERY OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS,
AND FARMERS FOR MECHANIZED FARMING**

In order to accelerate skills development and certification of agri-fishery machinery operators and technicians and farmers for mechanized farming all over the country and across all commodities, and in view of the implementation of Section 13 of RA No. 10601 (Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law), the Department of Agriculture (DA) entered a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (PSABE) and Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors Association (AMMDA) on a collaborative program known as "*Train to Mechanize Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries*" with the following components/objectives :

- 1) Rolling out of the following Training Regulations:
 - a. Rice Machinery Operation NCII
 - b. Agricultural Machinery Operation (Non-Rice) NCII
 - c. Drying and Milling Plant Servicing NCIII
 - d. Milking Operation NC II
 - e. Rubber Processing NCII
 - f. Agricultural Machinery Servicing (Tractor) NCIII
 - g. Pressurized Irrigation System Installation and Maintenance NCII
 - h. Solar Powered Irrigation System Operation and Maintenance NC II (For TESDA Board Approval)
 - i. Biogas Systems Installation NCIII (For TESDA Board Approval)
 - j. Aquaculture -Hatchery Operation NCII (For TESDA Board Approval)

The ultimate goal of the rolling out is to produce competent agri-fishery machinery operators and technicians on these ten (10) qualifications. Likewise, adequate number of agricultural and biosystems engineers shall be capacitated and mobilized as trainers and competency assessors; and training programs and assessment centers shall be registered and accredited in the country.

- 2) Development of additional TRs for the AFMech and agricultural and biosystems engineering sectors;
- 3) Development of Qualification Map for the Agri-Fisheries Mechanization and Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Sectors;
- 4) Development of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Career Progression and Specialization for the AFMech Sector from Philippine Qualification Framework (PQF) Level 1 to VIII; and
- 5) Support the implementation of the training and extension support of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

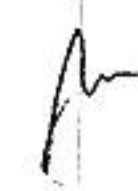
As such, all concerned DA offices, bureaus, attached agencies/corporations and regional field offices are hereby directed to support the implementation of this collaboration. Specifically, the following DA units/officials shall:

- 1) The Director of the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) shall be the lead DA representative in the Joint Management Committee (JMC) created under the above-mentioned MOA. The Directors of ATI, PhilMech and PCAF or their duly designated representative shall likewise serve as DA representatives in the JMC. The BAFE shall be responsible for the necessary coordination works with TESDA, PSABE and AMMDA and serve as secretariat. The JMC is expected to formulate specific guidelines and action plan on the implementation of the MOA.
- 2) The Regional Agricultural Engineering Divisions (RAEDs) of DA-RFOs shall serve as regional focal offices/units and be responsible in the coordination works with the regional/local offices of TESDA, concerned DA bureaus and attached agencies/corporation, the local chapters of PSABE and AMMDA, and the Local Government Units. The Director of ATI shall designate its agricultural and biosystems engineers/staff in its regional offices/centers as focal persons and closely coordinate with RAEDs;
- 3) All concerned DA bureaus, attached agencies/corporations with mandates on research, training and extension, as well as the DA RFO research centers shall endeavor to be accredited as training centers and assessment centers on any or all of the above training regulations, and their Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (ABEs) as Trainers and Competency Assessors. The RAEDs and ATI Regional Training Centers shall likewise coordinate and collaborate with TESDA Regional Offices, PSABE Regional/Local Chapters and AMMDA local members for the accreditation of Agricultural Engineering Groups of LGUs, the SCUs/HEIs, qualified agri-fisheries cooperatives and associations, farm schools/learning sites, among others to be accredited as Training Centers and/or Assessment Centers on any or all of the above TRs/qualifications;



- 4) The ATI, PhilMech, BAFE and other concerned DA bureaus and attached agencies/corporations and Regional Field Offices (RFOs) shall sustain and continue the conduct of Training Methodology (TM-1) for agricultural and biosystems engineers towards their accreditation as AFMech TVET trainers and competency assessors in partnership with the TESDA, PSABE, AMMDA and other concerned government agencies and private entities. Special and immediate attention shall be given to Regions 1, 2, 4B, 6,7,8,9, 11, 12 and ARMM where few/no batches of TM-1 have been conducted resulting to the lack or shortage of AFMech TVET trainers and assessors and a major constraints in the accreditation of TVET training centers and assessment centers.
- 5) The BAFE and PCAF shall coordinate and collaborate with PSABE, AMMDA, TESDA, PRBABE and DOLE on the :
 - a) Enforcement, monitoring and development of guidelines on the implementation of Section 13 of R.A. No. 10601 pertaining to the required manpower complement of TESDA certified agri-fisheries machinery operators and technicians, and licensed agricultural and biosystems engineers in agri-fisheries machinery pools, service centers and projects; and
 - b) Formulation and development of qualification map, new training regulations and ABE Career Progression and Specialization for the AFMech sector.
- 6) The ATI, Banner Program Coordinators, concerned DA bureaus, attached agencies/corporations and RFOs shall include the implementation of the collaboration as one of the priority project in the annual planning and budgeting process for 2021 and onwards under the Extension Support, Education and Training (ESET) of the GAA.
- 7) The RCEF Program Director, ATI and PhilMech shall include and mainstream the implementation of the collaboration in the activities and annual budgetary allocations of the training and extension support of RCEF. The rolling out of Rice Machinery Operation NC II, Drying and Milling NC III, and other applicable TRs and AFMech/ABE training programs shall be accelerated with adequate number of ABEs to be deployed as trainers and competency assessors, accredited training centers and assessment centers, skilled rice machinery operators and technicians, and skilled rice farmers for mechanized farming to be produced in rice producing provinces.


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Secretary 

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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