



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, 1100 Philippines

20 February 2020

Memorandum Circular

No. 04

Series of 2020

TO: All Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Regional Executive Directors, Directors of Banner Programs, Bureau Directors, Heads of Attached Agencies and Corporations

SUBJECT: Institutionalization of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA)

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries prone to disaster and climate risks. Extreme weather event such as typhoons, heavy rains, floods, and droughts resulted in catastrophic disasters, causing the greatest damage borne largely by the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

These events often occur annually and in intense cases substantially reduce agriculture GDP and, consequently, over-all GDP of the country. Production loss to agriculture and fisheries reached a staggering volume of 15.48 million metric tons with a total value of about two hundred ninety-one billion pesos (P291 billion) from 2010 to 2019.

However, damages from natural disasters can be reduced through risk reduction and management strategies. Existing laws and policies have institutionalized plans and programs, along with activities that would mitigate and adapt to these risks in the agriculture and fisheries sectors in a more systematic, sustainable and structured manner.

Climate Change is inevitable. It has no specific time frame. No boundaries. As such, we should always be ready and prepared to address this global concern. It is our obligation to ensure that our present and future generations will still enjoy the life and the beauty of our natural wealth.

The Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) office is being institutionalized to respond to the growing requirements on disaster and climate resiliency for agriculture and fishery sector. The following actions are needed:

(1) Institutionalization of Climate-Resilient Agriculture Office

The DA Systems-Wide Climate Change Office is hereby renamed as Climate-Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO).

The office provides strategic direction and oversight in mobilizing DA resources and capacities towards achieving the department's CRA agenda.

"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"



It oversees well-planned, coordinated and responsive support services in the establishment -- and expansion - of AMIA villages to town/province/region-level CRA, and from livelihoods to CRA enterprises.

The Working Group on the Review and Updating of the Agency-Wide Rationalization (AO No.01, S.2020) shall immediately evaluate the submitted proposal for the establishment of the CRAO and recommend/facilitate appropriate action/s for its immediate institutionalization.

(2) Mainstreaming the Climate and Weather-Informed Advisories

The preparation and dissemination of farm and fishery advisories based on climate and weather outlook is one of the critical basic services to be provided by the DA - Regional Field Offices.

The actions needed:

- a. The climate and weather-informed advisory service shall be lodged in the office of the Regional Technical Director for Operations or Research.
- b. A Technical Working Group (TWG) that is responsible in the preparation and dissemination of advisories shall be created immediately in the RFOs.
- c. The TWG shall be composed of experts from the Banner Programs; ~~Engineering & Research Divisions, along with representatives from the~~ Climate and DRR Units.
- d. The RFOs shall disseminate the advisories to LGUs and farmer/fisherfolk/organizations/associations/groups thru all possible platforms such as but not limited to social media, radio, bulletins, text/short messages service, MAOs meetings.
- e. All regular and special programs in the DA shall use the advisories as guide in preparing/enhancing their seasonal and annual plans starting this coming wet cropping season.
- f. The CRA Office shall immediately arrange training of the TWG of RFOs based on the protocol developed by the AMIA Team of DA - Bicol Region.
- g. The RFOs shall then train their partner LGUs with funding assistance from the banner programs.

(3) Enhancement of Commodity Roadmaps

The banner programs shall immediately review the commodity roadmaps and corresponding work plans as well as the commodity cluster development plans. These programs will ensure that climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices are applied and supported.

Towards this end, the banner programs shall use the investment planning tools developed under AMIA such as the Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), Climate Risk Profiles (CRP), National Color-Coded Agricultural Guide (NCCAG) maps, the adoption of science-based/proven Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) options, and the provision of climate & weather-informed farm and fisheries advisories

The CRA Office shall assist the banner programs in the pursuance of this undertaking.

(4) Leveling up to AMIA - Climate Resilient Agri-Fishery Technology-based Enterprises (AMIA-CREATE).

Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) must be promoted in a wide scale. The AMIA villages shall now be transformed -- and expanded -- from pilot scale to town/province level CRA actions. From production-based, it will transform into market-oriented CRA enterprises while leveling up its efforts to ensure agri-fishery communities are climate-resilient by expanding the AMIA villages to Climate Resilient Agri-Fishery Technology-based Enterprises (AMIA-CREATE).

The actions needed:

- a. The CRA Office, together with the RFOs shall conduct an assessment of the existing AMIA villages and identify initial areas as proof of concept for crops, livestock, aquaculture & fisheries-based for expansion.
- b. The selected RFOs for the proof-of-concept shall make adjustments in their current budget for the implementation of the activities in the AMIA-CREATE.
- c. The AMIA CREATE proof-of-concept shall include farm ~~clustering/consolidation, professional management/ business service~~ provider and enterprise development approaches, among others.
- d. For the expansion in the other regions in succeeding years, the RFOs shall incorporate their plans for expansion in their budget proposals starting CY 2021.
- e. To ensure the transformation of AMIA Villages, the DA-CRAO in collaboration with AMAS and ACPC, PCIC, the Banner Programs and all Other Programs will continue to strengthen their engagement with business service providers and professional managers to provide communities with integrated support services.
- f. The RFOs shall strengthen their partnerships with the Local Government Units (LGUs) to integrate the AMIA-CREATE in the LGU's Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) for agriculture.

(5) Completion of Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA)

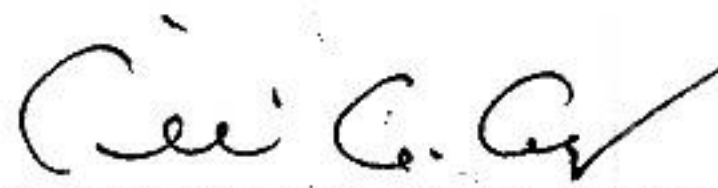
To ensure that CRA is adopted in the whole country, the CRVA in all provinces should be completed. All RFOs must prioritize the preparation and completion of all CRVA of the provinces under their jurisdiction.

The Banner Programs and RFOs shall henceforth, institutionalize the use of CRVA maps as a standard assessment and targeting tool for all of its investment projects.

(6) Disaster Risk Reduction Financing and Risk Transfer

- a. The ACPC shall formulate suitable credit facility to support AMIA-CREATE.
- b. The PCIC shall automatically enroll all Farmers and fisherfolk of AMIA villages and AMIA-CREATE.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately. All issuances inconsistent herewith is deemed revoked/revised.


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Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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For Signature: S-02-20-0657
Received : 02/26/2020 08:48 AM