

## **Memorandum Order**

No. 19

Series of 2020

**Subject: Implementing Guidelines for the Rice Resiliency Project**

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### **I. PROJECT RATIONALE:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused new challenges in the food systems as countries change their trade policies resulting to limited movement of goods including food. These policy shifts pose threats to countries relying on the global market for food. Without proper actions, the threat of hunger is as real as the threat of COVID-19, thus the need to ramp up local food production to address potential scarcity and hunger.

In these trying times where food is of utmost importance, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is pushing for increased food sufficiency as an effort to ensure food availability, accessibility and affordability. Pursuant to this direction, the Department has identified three approaches to boost local production. First is acceleration of the utilization and implementation of the Quick Response Fund (QRF) to provide inputs and services that addresses concerns in calamity situations. Second is refocusing funded activities for FY 2020 implementation to fast moving interventions for immediate impact on increasing food production and supply. Lastly, proposing a stimulus program named Agri 4Ps – Plant, Plant, Plant Program otherwise known as Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat kontra Covid-19 (ALPAS sa Covid-19) Program to improve the country's food adequacy.

Highlighting the significance of rice to local food security and price stability, being the major source of caloric intake for the Filipinos, one of the projects under Agri 4Ps is the Rice Resiliency Project, which aims to increase local rice production to combat global trade uncertainties and put the country to a more food-secure position.

Achieving higher productivity in rice would entail use of high quality seeds; sustainable sufficient water supply; sufficient fertilization based on scientific soil study; use of machinery and post-harvest facilities; and, access to credit and financing. DA supported these measures for improving productivity. However, with the Department's limited fund allocation, not all rice-producing areas availed of the interventions. Under this Rice Resiliency Project, major farm inputs for adopting high-yielding technologies would be promoted industry-wide to increase local rice supply.

*A food-secure Philippines*

*with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk*



This Project shall be implemented ~~under the three (3)~~ <sup>with</sup> sub-projects in time for the wet season planting:

1. **RCEF-Enhanced** – a fertilizer support for the RCEF-targeted 947 inbred rice municipalities to complement the distribution of inbred seeds under the RCEF Seed Component implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).
2. **Expanded Inbred Rice Production (Beyond RCEF Areas)** – an expanded inbred certified seed distribution during wet season to enhance production in non-RCEF areas to be coupled with inorganic fertilizers. This shall also cover the provision of fertilizers to farmers who utilize goods seeds/home-saved seeds.

Inbred certified seeds and fertilizers will also be provided in RCEF areas if the farmer's total area exceeds the maximum three (3) hectares covered under RCEF.

3. **Expanded Hybrid Rice Production in Suitable Areas** – an intensified promotion of high-yielding technology through distribution of hybrid rice seeds and inorganic fertilizers. This shall also provide fertilizers to farmers who are recipients of hybrid seeds funded under the National Rice Program (NRP) 2020 GAA targeted for the wet season cropping.

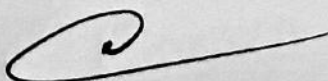
Hybrid seeds and fertilizers will also be provided in RCEF areas if the farmer's total area exceeds the maximum three (3) hectares covered under RCEF.

## II. PROJECT SCOPE:

The project will be implemented in the 2020 wet season cropping. All 16 regions with rice-producing provinces/municipalities under RCEF and non-RCEF areas shall be covered under the Rice Resiliency Project for both irrigated and rainfed lowland areas.

## III. PROJECT TARGETS:

To ensure that the goal of achieving higher productivity is met, the following shall be the targets for each sub-project:



PROJECT	AREA (ha)	REQUIREMENT		INCREMENTAL PRODUCTION	TARGET YIELD INCREASE
		SEEDS (bags)	FERTILIZER (bags)		
<b>I. RCEF Enhanced</b>				<b>628,500</b>	
Seeds (from RCEF)*	1,257,000	1,257,000		-	0.5mt/ha
Fertilizer (2 bags/ha)			2,514,000	2,514,000,000	
<b>II. Expanded Inbred</b>				<b>251,777</b>	
<b>A. Certified Seeds</b>					
Seeds	318,088	318,088		483,493,760	0.5mt/ha
Fertilizer (2bags/ha)			636,176	636,176,000	
<b>B. Good Seeds/Home-Saved Seeds</b>					
Seeds (from Informal System/Farmers)	309,110	309,110			0.3 mt/ha
Fertilizer (2bags/ha)			618,220	618,220,000	
<b>III. Expanded Hybrid</b>				<b>697,509</b>	
Seeds (from regular)*		176,021		-	
Seeds (from RRP)		465,006		2,325,030,000	1.5 mt/ha
Fertilizer (2 bags/ha)	641,027		1,923,081	1,923,081,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,525,225</b>	<b>783,094</b>	<b>5,691,477</b>	<b>1,577,786</b>	

\*Not to be funded from the project

The DA- Regional Field Offices (RFOs) must have an established baseline data to be able to measure the effectiveness of the provided interventions.

#### IV. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

The DA-RFOs, in coordination with the Provincial Agriculturist (PA)/Municipal Agriculturist (MA), shall spearhead the distribution of seeds and fertilizers to the farmer-beneficiaries, still adhering to the precautionary measures as stipulated in the DA Administrative Order No. 12, Series of 2020.

**Selection of Seeds.** National Seed Industry Council (NSIC)-registered hybrid and inbred rice varieties recommended for the season and locality shall be procured, distributed and utilized in this Project. Furthermore, varieties with temporary accreditation can also be considered, provided that its distribution will be limited in provinces where its performance is outstanding.





**Selection of Area.** Under the RCEF-Enhanced sub-project, areas must be from the identified RCEF areas. However, for the sub-projects Expanded Inbred Rice Production and Hybrid Rice Production in Suitable Areas, remaining rice areas will be included as recipients (including areas unserved in RCEF areas).

**Seed and Fertilizer Distribution.** With the need to make precautionary measures relative to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- DA-RFOs shall spearhead the project implementation in their respective areas of responsibility. They shall prepare pertinent project documents that would be used in the project implementation such as localized guidelines, forms, information materials, and production guides, among others. They shall coordinate with the Local Government Units (LGUs) to conduct briefings and information campaigns to the project beneficiaries using tools and employing measures that conforms to the social distancing protocols.
- DA-Central Office shall procure the fertilizer requirement while DA-RFOs shall procure the required inbred and hybrid seeds. DA-RFOs shall also be responsible for the distribution of the agricultural inputs to target provinces, cities and municipalities.
- The Office of the Municipal Agriculturist/Municipal Agriculturist Officer/City Agriculturist thru the supervision of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg), will coordinate with DA-RFOs in the scheduling of input delivery to their respective localities. These offices will also be responsible for the distribution of the inputs to the farmer-beneficiaries.
- DA-RFOs must ensure that the suppliers and its personnel handling the seeds and fertilizer distribution must secure food passes and other pertinent documents (i.e., IATF ID) from the DA to ensure smooth delivery of goods. Prior coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and other relevant IATF agencies on the enforcement of IATF resolution on considering agricultural workers as frontliners must also be conducted to ensure the project's delivery schedule and implementation would not encounter delays.
- Farmer-beneficiaries shall present any proof of Urea fertilizer purchase (e.g sales invoice, official receipt) to avail of the fertilizer support under this project.
- Positioning and date of delivery of the agricultural inputs shall be prioritized based on the planting calendar.



- Inputs shall be delivered to the designated drop-off points determined by the PLGUs and MLGUs in coordination with the DA-RFOs.
- Acknowledgement Receipt and inspection of goods shall be signed by DA-RFO competent authorities or designated personnel authorized by the DA Executive Director.
- While the ECQ is in effect, strict social distancing must be imposed. Documentation such as filling up of forms shall be done manually.
- The farmer-beneficiaries, upon claiming the inputs, shall bring their RSBSA registration number; if not yet registered, they shall secure RSBSA forms from the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist/Municipal Agriculturist Officer/City Agriculturist and submit filled forms for them to avail of the project interventions.
- The farmer-beneficiaries shall claim the free Urea fertilizers upon presentation of any proof of purchase and valid identification documents to the municipal agriculture office or at the designated distribution center.
- The farmer-beneficiaries, upon withdrawal of inputs, will sign the acknowledgement form indicating the quantity and kind of inputs availed under this project.
- Each sub-project shall have its own masterlist. DA-RFOs must ensure that farmer-beneficiaries shall fill-out forms specific to the sub-project.
- In instances that the distribution cannot be handled by the LGU due to strict ECQ measures/lockdown, the farmer leader, officer, or designated representative of DA accredited FCA (Irrigators' Association or Farmers' Cooperative) can avail of the seeds and fertilizers on behalf of the farmer-beneficiaries, provided that they can present a valid ID and submit the forms duly-filled by the farmers.
- Acknowledgement forms and masterlist of beneficiaries shall be returned to DA-RFOs who will translate this into project progress reports that would be submitted to DA OSEC periodically.
- DA-RFOs and LGUs must ensure that the farmer-beneficiaries' health and safety is prioritized during the ECQ. Monitoring of body temperature, social distancing and use of face masks and alcohols/sanitizers are highly encouraged. Assistance from the Health Offices must also be sought as needed.

**Payment of Seeds and Fertilizers.** Payment of CS and hybrid seeds and fertilizers will be done after delivery, inspection and acceptance by authorized DA Personnel. For seeds delivered, it must be accompanied by

results of seed analysis from government seed laboratories, taken not less than sixty (60) days at the date of delivery and must form part of the requirements for payment.

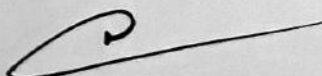
Further, the Rice Resiliency Project shall be implemented with the implementation guidelines per sub-project:

**1. RCEF – Enhanced**

- Inbred seeds shall come from the RCEF-Seed Component c/o PhilRice which shall still follow the Ad Hoc Protocol for seed distribution under the ECQ per PhilRice Memorandum No. 2020-105.
- The fertilizers shall be distributed on the designated drop off points. Distribution of fertilizers shall be on a *buy two, take two scheme*: two (2) bags of urea (50kg/bag) per hectare shall be provided to farmer-beneficiaries given that they first purchase or buy two bags of inorganic fertilizer (with official receipt) intended for use this Wet Season 2020 (WS 2020). This proof of purchase must be submitted/collected during the claiming of inputs. The receipts and signed masterlist will form part of the liquidation documents.
- In cases of fractions of area, the DA-RFOs may design a fertilizer distribution scheme to optimize the quantity to be availed by the farmer-beneficiaries.

**2. Expanded Inbred Rice Production (Beyond RCEF Areas)**

- One (1) bag of inbred certified seeds (40kg/bag) shall be given on a per hectare basis.
- Distribution of fertilizers shall be on a *buy two, take two scheme*: two (2) bags of urea (50kg/bag) per hectare shall be provided to farmer-beneficiaries given that they first purchase or buy two bags of inorganic fertilizer (with official receipt) intended for use this Wet Season 2020 (WS 2020). This proof of purchase must be submitted during the claiming of inputs.
- Quantity of seeds and fertilizers must correspond to the rice area of the farmer-beneficiary.
- For farmers who will utilize good seeds/home-saved seeds because of limited tagged inbred certified seeds availability, they are still eligible to receive two (2) bags of urea per hectare given the conditions stated under this sub-project.





- In cases of fractions of area, the DA-RFOs may design a fertilizer distribution scheme to optimize the quantity to be availed by the farmer-beneficiaries.
- Farmers who planted earlier before the start of the Project may still avail of the fertilizer subsidy provided that they can still submit proof of purchase and can still be used for top/side dressing.

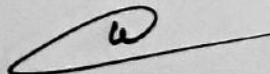
### **3. Expanded Hybrid Rice Production in Suitable Areas**

- One (1) bag of hybrid seeds and three bags of urea (50 kg/bag) shall be distributed to farmer-beneficiaries who are not covered under RCEF.
- Distribution of fertilizers shall be on a *buy two, take three scheme*: three (3) bags of urea (50kg/bag) per hectare shall be provided to farmer-beneficiaries given that they first purchase or buy two bags of inorganic fertilizer (with official receipt) intended for use this Wet Season 2020 (WS 2020). This proof of purchase must be submitted during the claiming of inputs.
- Further, to complement the provision of hybrid seeds funded under the NRP, the recipients shall still be eligible to receive three (3) bags of inorganic fertilizers (50/kg) per hectare provided that they follow the stipulations stated in the fertilizer scheme of the Expanded Hybrid Rice Production under RRP.
- Quantity of seeds and fertilizers must correspond to the rice area of the farmer-beneficiary.
- Farmer-beneficiaries are encouraged to follow the hybrid rice protocols that would be provided.
- Hybrid seed companies shall provide technical support on the specific management practices for growing their respective varieties.
- In cases of fractions of area, the DA-RFOs may design a fertilizer distribution scheme to optimize the quantity to be availed by the farmer-beneficiaries

## **V. ROLES OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/UNITS:**

### **1. DA-CO (Operations)**

- a. Spearhead the overall coordination of the RRP.
- b. Organize a Project Management Office.




- c. Conduct briefing to all DA-RFOs and other agencies involved in the implementation of RRP including the implementing guidelines.
- d. Procure the fertilizer requirement of the RRP and ensure that the fertilizers will be distributed to the identified drop-off points on time with proper coordination with the DA-RFOs.
- e. Submit regular reports to the Office of the Secretary.
- f. Identify, analyze and provide advice on operational bottlenecks of the Project.
- g. Conduct monitoring and evaluation of the Project.
- h. Submit terminal report at the end of the Project to the Office of the Secretary.

## **2. DA-RFOs**

- a. Organize a Rice Resiliency Project Management Office or Task Force.
- b. Conduct project briefing to PLGUs and M/C LGUs and ensure that the implementing guidelines is well understood by all concerned (PA, MA/CA, and AEW).
- c. Conduct target setting in coordination with the PA.
- d. Procure the certified seeds and hybrid seeds based on Regional allocation/target and arrange its deliveries from the suppliers to the identified drop-off points in the municipalities.
- e. Provide masterlist forms to be used under the Project.
- f. Issue IATF identification cards to all major players (DA Personnel, PA and staff, MA/CA and AEW to include seed growers).
- g. Consolidate reports from the provinces for submission to Central Office (FOS).
- h. If necessary, provide augmentation fund for logistical support.

## **3. PLGU (Office of the Provincial Agriculturist)**

- a. Assist in the conduct of information drive to farmers.
  - b. Assist the DA-RFO in setting the targets of the participating municipalities.
  - c. Coordinate with RFO and MLGUs regarding the schedule of delivery of seeds and fertilizers to drop-off points in the province or municipalities.
  - d. Supervise the distribution of inputs to farmers in the province.
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- e. Consolidate reports from MLGUs for submission to DA-RFO.

**4. MLGU (Office of the City/Municipal Agriculturist)**

- a. Conduct information drive to farmers.
- b. Prepare a prospective masterlist of farmer-beneficiaries based on RSBSA.
- c. Spearhead the distribution of inputs to farmers with documentation.
- d. Submit schedule of deliveries of seeds and fertilizers including drop-off points in coordination with the PLGUs.
- e. Submit masterlist of beneficiaries of both seeds and fertilizers properly acknowledged by rice farmers in the prescribed format.

**VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

The Municipal/City Agriculturist, assisted by the RFO, Provincial Agriculturist and assigned Local Farmer Technician (LFT), shall undertake gathering of necessary data.

The reporting, monitoring and evaluation system shall be led by the Field Programs Coordination and Monitoring Division. Reports shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, complete with observations and/or recommendations.

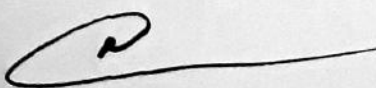
**VII. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES:**

The DA-RFOs and BARMM are hereby authorized to formulate detailed supplementary guidelines to address peculiar situations per region. These supplemental guidelines shall be subject to approval of the National Rice Program Coordinator prior to implementation.

- All previous issuances including supplemental guidelines of Regional Field Offices inconsistent herewith are superseded by this Memorandum Order and this shall take effect upon approval and remain valid until revoked in writing by competent authority.

**VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE:**

If any clause, sentence, or provision of the Memorandum Order shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.



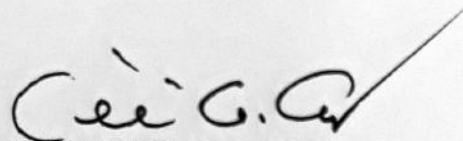

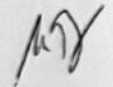
**IX. REPEALING CLAUSE:**

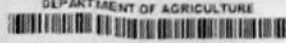
All previous orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Memorandum Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**X. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE:**

This Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately subject to changes as may be instructed/issued by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Done this 17 day of April, 2020.

  
WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.  
Secretary  
 

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
  
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ANNEX 2. Regional Targets for RCEF Enhanced and Expanded Inbred

Particulars	RCEF Enhanced			Expanded Inbred				
	RCEF Seed Allocation	RRP Fertilizer Target	Budgetary Requirement	Expanded CS w/ Fert		Fertilizer for GS		Budgetary Requirement
				RRP Seed Target	RRP Fertilizer Target	RRP Fertilizer Target		
						Ha	Bags	
	Ha	Bags	PhP	Ha	Bags	Ha	Bags	PhP
Philippines	1,257,000	2,514,000	2,514,000,000	318,088	636,176	309,110	618,220	1,737,889,760
CAR	14,909	29,818	29,818,000	15,000	30,000	24,743	49,486	102,286,000
I	99,578	199,155	199,155,000	30,000	60,000	81,467	162,934	268,534,000
II	182,855	365,709	365,709,000	20,000	40,000		-	70,400,000
III	211,388	422,776	422,776,000	93,871	187,742		-	330,425,920
IV-A	32,933	65,865	65,865,000	3,000	6,000	3,704	7,408	17,968,000
IV-B	72,737	145,473	145,473,000	36,029	72,058	25,544	51,088	177,910,080
V	89,683	179,366	179,366,000	-	-	30,134	60,268	60,268,000
VI	179,878	359,756	359,756,000	15,000	30,000	32,574	65,148	117,948,000
VII	25,955	51,910	51,910,000	-	-	6,413	12,826	12,826,000
VIII	69,625	139,249	139,249,000	9,565	19,130	9,602	19,204	52,872,800
IX	31,785	63,569	63,569,000	38,000	76,000	17,363	34,726	168,486,000
X	57,393	114,786	114,786,000	1,593	3,186	12,158	24,316	29,923,360
XI	45,645	91,290	91,290,000	-	-	-	-	-
XII	94,582	189,163	189,163,000	10,000	20,000	43,496	86,992	122,192,000
XIII	48,058	96,115	96,115,000	6,030	12,060	1,912	3,824	25,049,600
BARMM	-	-	-	40,000	80,000	20,000	40,000	180,800,000



ANNEX 2. Regional Targets for Expanded Hybrid

Particulars	Expanded Hybrid				
	Wet Season Hybrid Target Area	Seed Allocation from Regular	Seeds from RRP	Fertilizer Targets under RRP	Budgetary Requirement
	Ha	Ha	Ha	Bags	PhP
Philippines	641,027	176,021	465,006	1,923,081	4,248,111,000
CAR	13,395	7,739	5,656	40,185	68,465,000
I	125,000	29,287	95,713	375,000	853,565,000
II	69,508	36,072	33,436	208,524	375,704,000
III	100,185	-	100,185	300,555	801,480,000
IV-A	6,114	4,927	1,187	18,342	24,277,000
IV-B	50,114	7,252	42,862	150,342	364,652,000
V	61,202	7,889	53,313	183,606	450,171,000
VI	80,000	11,766	68,234	240,000	581,170,000
VII	14,254	3,627	10,627	42,762	95,897,000
VIII	22,440	11,620	10,820	67,320	121,420,000
IX	14,611	9,236	5,375	43,833	70,708,000
X	21,344	11,490	9,854	64,032	113,302,000
XI	9,884	9,311	573	29,652	32,517,000
XII	40,000	17,829	22,171	120,000	230,855,000
XIII	7,976	7,976	-	23,928	23,928,000
BARMM	5,000	-	5,000	15,000	40,000,000



**ANNEX 3. SUGGESTED FERTILIZER SCHEME FOR FRACTIONED AREAS**

**A. RCEF - Enhanced Sub-Project and Expanded Inbred Rice Production  
(Beyond RCEF Areas) Sub Project**

Area (ha)	Fertilizer Scheme
$\leq 0.75$ ha	Buy 1, take 1
$>0.75$ to 1.25 ha	Buy 2, take 2
$>1.25$ to 1.75 ha	Buy 3, take 3
$>1.75$ to 2.25 ha	Buy 4, take 4
$>2.25$ to 2.75 ha	Buy 5, take 5
$>2.75$ to 3 ha	Buy 6, take 6

**B. Expanded Hybrid Rice Production in Suitable Areas Sub-Project**

Area (ha)	Fertilizer Scheme
$\leq 0.5$ ha	Buy 1 take 1
$>0.5$ to 0.9 ha	Buy 2 take 2
1 ha	Buy 2 take 3
$>1$ to 1.5 ha	Buy 3 take 4
$>1.5$ to 1.9 ha	Buy 4 take 5
2ha	Buy 4 take 6
..	
5 ha	Buy 10 take 15

