



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
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17 August 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL HEADS OF BUREAUS, REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES,
ATTACHED AGENCIES, & CORPORATIONS AND
DA CENTRAL OFFICE

FROM : DIRECTOR, CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE OFFICE AND
BALIK PROBINSYA, BAGONG PAG-ASA PROGRAM &
DA DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON

SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR DA'S SUPPORT TO THE
BALIK PROBINSYA, BAGONG PAG-ASA PROGRAM

We are furnishing you a copy of the Implementing Guidelines for DA's Support to the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program approved by the Secretary last July 28, 2020. We look forward to work with you for the successful implementation of this priority project of the President.

For your information and guidance. Thank you.


ALICIA G. ILAGA

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



IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON DA's SUPPORT TO THE BALIK PROBINSYA, BAGONG PAG-ASA PROGRAM

The President issued Executive Order No. 114 known as the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) Program in response to the issues of population density and urban sustainability that compound our ability to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to decongest Metro Manila and other major cities, enticing low-income families¹ to go back to the provinces for good, to promote inclusive growth through direct rural development and to ensure equitable distribution of wealth and resources, population, and opportunities. These measures will make the country more resilient to pandemic, climate change, and other disasters of similar magnitude in the future. It will also create a system where the countryside and the city work together and develop beneficial chains of value.

Recognizing the importance of the agriculture and fishery sector in the post-pandemic economic recovery or the "new normal" condition, the EO 114 specified Food Security and Agricultural Productivity as a key area in the BP2 framework.

In response, the Department of Agriculture shall work to empower BP2 beneficiaries to engage in sustainable rural development, while creating an environment conducive to agri-fishery entrepreneurship. Hence, it shall promote balanced regional development through resilient agro-industrialization.

As provided in the EO's implementing rules and regulations, the DA shall pursue capacity building, household food sufficiency and livelihood, collective agri-fishery enterprises, and identification and development of new agri-fishery areas to support the BP2 beneficiaries in particular and the rural agro-industrial development in general.

A. Pre-implementation

1. Identification of current DA programs and available funds

- a. The DA operating units/RFOs, banner programs, bureaus, corporations and attached agencies shall inventory PAPs/resources and available funds that can be made available for the BP2 program implementation.
- b. The NCI-SRD Secretariat shall inventory current PAPs/resources and available funds under the DA-DAR-DENR-DILG convergence program that can be made available for the BP2 program implementation.

¹ See Executive Order 114, "Institutionalizing the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* Program as a Pillar of Balanced Regional Development, Creating a Council Therefore, and other purposes", Section 3.3 for the basic criteria for target beneficiaries



2. Inventory and profiling of potential beneficiaries

- a. The office of the DA-BP2 Director-Coordinator shall closely and regularly coordinate with the BP2 Council Secretariat for the identified online and onsite enrollees of the program.
- b. Profiles of the enrollees shall be captured and accessed through an online platform (<https://balikprobinsya.ph>). It shall generate indicative figures of the enrollees who are willing to engage in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock value chain activities upon return to the provinces for good.
- c. The DA BP2 Program Office shall secure the approved applicant's database, which is duly processed and verified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development/National Housing Authority.

3. Sharing and management of databases

- a. The DA BP2 Program Office shall share the verified information to concerned DA units and RFOs based on the targeted priority areas (region/province/municipality) prior to the enrollees' departure from or arrival to the designated province.
- b. The DA RFO BP2 Focal shall coordinate with the Regional Development Council (RDC)/local BP2 Council in anticipation of the enrollees' arrival in the area.
- c. The RFO shall coordinate with the Provincial/City/Municipal LGUs through the PAO/MAO/CAO for the provision of possible DA intervention/s.

4. Other preparatory activities

- a. The DA shall aggressively pursue the BP2 implementation nationwide, with the Plant, Plant, Plant Program or the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) Kontra COVID-19 to support food production and ensure food availability, accessibility, affordability, and safety.
- b. The DA in coordination with BPI/ATI shall distribute starter gardening kits and seeds to beneficiaries upon departure. On arrival in the province, the RFO in coordination with the MAO/CAO will provide other complementary assistance (e.g., poultry, livestock, seedlings) in order to support household food sufficiency in the immediate term at least after a 14-day quarantine period in the area.

B. General Guidelines

1. Following the EO No. 114's key area on Food Security and Agricultural Productivity, the DA interventions shall focus on:
 - a. Capacity Building – Provide social preparation, values formation, and skills training to BP2 beneficiaries in order to prepare their engagement in agriculture, fishery, and livestock value chain activities.



- b. Household Sufficiency and Livelihood Development – Ensure that BP2 beneficiaries shall have immediate sources of food and income upon return to selected provinces, where farm diversification shall be promoted and actively supported.
 - c. Collective Enterprise Development – In pursuit of the goal of regional balance and equitable distribution of resources, collective enterprise development shall be supported to promote rural agro-industrialization by integrating/linking BP2 beneficiaries in existing viable Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) and transform the FCAs into viable collective enterprises. The DA assistance in the development of viable enterprises includes consolidation, clustering, and collectivization and provision of integrated support services, such as access to credit, insurance, market, technologies, weather- and climate-based advisories, infrastructure, food logistics support, and other assistance packages.
2. Relocation/integration sites where BP2 beneficiaries can productively pursue agriculture and fishery shall be prioritized in existing integrated area development and convergence areas, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. AMIA Villages
 - b. NCI-SRD convergence areas
 - c. SAAD Areas
 - d. ARCs (DAR)
 - e. Kalahi-CIDSS (DSWD)

Selection and prioritization of beneficiaries shall be in accordance with the existing implementation guidelines of the current programs (e.g KALAHI, SAAD, NCI-SRD, and AMIA).

The Regional Field Offices (RFOs) shall facilitate the registration of the beneficiaries in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).

3. The DA intervention shall be made equally available and accessible to BP2 beneficiaries and local residents in the relocation area and shall be complementary or not overlapping with other agencies' support (e.g., in ARB communities, the DAR shall focus on solving land tenure arrangements, whereas the DA shall focus on increasing the productivity and incomes of ARBs).
4. The DA intervention shall be directed towards the establishment of network of food production in convergence areas in order to enable landless farmers and relocated residents to produce food with the guidance of DA and/or designated service providers. The ownership of the food production area (existing public lands) shall remain with the state. Together with the LGU in the area, the DA shall organize beneficiaries into FCAs and in collaboration with the DENR, award them parcels of land with tenurial obligations.
5. The DA shall be responsible for the development of each food production area. It shall facilitate the provision of the necessary infrastructure, such as irrigation and similar



water management systems as well as farm-to-market road system to the network of food production areas. It shall also provide technical and input assistance, marketing linkage, and access to credit and insurance.

6. The DA shall craft a phase-out plan on direct subsidies while maintaining a conducive policy environment for sustainable rural development. The phase-out shall start at the third year and end in the sixth year.
7. The DA BP2 program shall be implemented in a whole-of-DA approach through the coordination of the DA BP2 Program Office with the RFOs, banner programs, bureaus, attached agencies, and corporations in partnership with other national government agencies, local government units, tertiary cooperatives, state universities and colleges, private sector, and non-government organizations.
8. DA units, banner programs, bureaus, attached agencies, and corporations shall undertake their mandates in close coordination with the DA BP2 Program Office and RFOs to provide integrated support services for the BP2 program implementation, namely:
 - a. DA BP2 Program Office - serves as the oversight and coordinating and monitoring body for BP2 strategic implementation.
 - b. Regional Field Office (RFO) - will implement the DA BP2 program on the ground in coordination with LGUs through a whole-of-DA approach to ensure coordinated provision of integrated support services.
 - c. Commodity Banner Programs - Rice, Corn, Livestock, HVCDP, Organic Agriculture including the BFAR, PhilFIDA, PCA, and SRA shall prioritize technical support to BP2 program areas as may be recommended by implementing RFOs.
 - d. National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) - identify convergence areas for possible BP2 relocation and in close coordination with the DA BP2 program, support agriculture, forestry, and fishery (AFF) enterprise development in the area.
 - e. Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) - through the ATI and DA regional offices, conduct capacity building (e.g., skills training, financial literacy, business planning, and values formation) for BP2 program beneficiaries. Furthermore, ATI shall assist in pursuing the "earn-while-you-learn" strategy by helping BP2 beneficiaries access scholarship grants from TESDA. All training programs shall be applied for TESDA accreditation for trainees to earn certificates (NC II) at the end of the course. To ensure full appreciation of the course, actual farming shall be conducted as on-the-job-training in RFO experiment stations. This shall be managed by an RFO training team to be assigned by the RED and to be assisted by ATI technical personnel.
 - f. Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) - provide easy access loans/credit assistance for qualified BP2 program beneficiaries for household livelihood and enterprise development.
 - g. Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) - provide insurance protection for BP2 beneficiaries who engage in AFF livelihood or enterprises.



- h. DA Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) – identify marketable commodities that BP2 program beneficiaries can produce and assist the same by linking with ready markets.
- i. DA Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (AFID) and Communications Group – in coordination with the DA BP2 Program Office, execute the strategic communication and advocacy from national to regional levels to ensure consistent messaging, increase awareness, effect behavior change, and motivate stakeholders to become partners and form as force multipliers to achieve synergy in program implementation.
- j. DA Information and Communication Technology Service (ICTS)- set-up the DA BP2 program ICT system that can be accessed/populated by the RFO BP2 program to capture or geotag project databases for automatic report generation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- k. DA Field Operations Service (FOS) – in coordination with the DA BP2 Program Office, shall provide necessary intervention to support RFO’s implementation of the DA BP2 program.
- l. Other DA Bureaus (BAI, BAR, BFAR, BPI, BAFS, BAFE, and BSWM) and technical Agencies (PhilRice, PhilMech, PCC, and PhilFIDA) – actively identify areas for technical assistance and available project resources to align with and support the DA BP2 program implementation.

C. Primary Interventions

1. Short-term Interventions

Agri-based support services

- a. The DA-RFO, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the LGU in the area shall identify food production and residential areas.
- b. The DA-RFO with ATI and the LGU shall assess capacity and training needs on AFF production and knowledge on climate/disaster risks and adaptation practices of BP2 beneficiaries.
- c. The DA-RFO and the LGU shall assess crop suitability and climate/disaster risks of proposed production areas using National Color Coded Agricultural Guide (NCCAG)/Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) maps, for cross-validation onsite with the municipal/city agriculturist office.
- d. The DA-RFO shall assess the agriculture and food value chain or utilize existing Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIP) formulated under the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP) for the proposed AFF projects to identify access points where BP2 beneficiaries can participate.
- e. The DA BP2 Program Office shall direct and/or fund the conduct of feasibility studies for selected AFF projects.
- f. The DA-RFO shall organize producers into production units, processing and/or marketing units in coordination and consistent with the policies of the Consolidation, Clustering, and Collectivization program.



- g. The DA-RFO and ATI shall plan and conduct training in collaboration with the LGU on topics such as, but not limited to, improved production methods, post-harvest technologies, processing methods, pre-market product preparation, and credit access.
- h. The DA-RFO shall provide climate- and weather-based farm and fishery advisories as a guide in resiliency building.
- i. The DA-RFO shall assist beneficiaries in accessing credit from ACPC and insurance from PCIC and other DA grants and programs.
- j. The DA-RFO in coordination with AMAS shall link producers to markets, assist in evaluating marketing arrangements, and monitor marketing of produce, and identify weak points in the value chain.
- k. The DA-RFO through the available support programs shall provide postharvest facilities and farm machinery to the beneficiaries' organization depending on need and on a favorable credit arrangement.
- l. The DA under the Plant, Plant, Plant Program shall promote household food security and nutrition to ensure the BP2 beneficiaries' immediate needs.

2. Medium-term Interventions

Livelihood and employment opportunities for rural development

- a. The DA-RFO shall link the beneficiaries and their organizations with the private sector to develop new rural-based industries, such as, but not limited to, the establishment of feed mills near corn and cassava production areas, meat processing plants within or near livestock producers, and establishment of grains-based snack factories near corn-, adlai-, and rice-producing areas, in accordance with RA 7607, Section 33.
- b. The DA-RFO shall build on existing integrated area development sites and convergence areas (e.g., NCI-SRD convergence areas and Balik Probinsya Program pilot sites).
- c. The DA-RFO shall provide support to transform people's organizations to business enterprises through Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture-Climate Resilient Agri-Fishery Technology-based Enterprises (AMIA-CREATE).
- d. On the initiative of the DA under the Plant, Plant, Plant Program or the Rice Resiliency Project, the National Irrigation Authority and Bureau of Soils and Water Management shall provide irrigation and other water management systems to the BP2 program new food production areas.
- e. The DA, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall provide farm-to-market roads to provide access to the BP2 program new food production areas.

3. Long-term Interventions

- a. The DA shall advocate for the legislation of the National Land Use Act.



- b. The DA shall craft a proposal for the legislation of the Network of Food Production Areas.

D. Institutional Set-up and Program Partners

1. The DA-BP2 program management shall be led by the designated Director-Coordinator who directly reports to the Secretary. The program implementation shall be rolled out through the RFOs under the direct supervision of the REDs.
2. The REDs shall mobilize their existing AMIA Teams or create their DA RFO BP2 Teams through a Special Order to manage the program activities.
3. To ensure the whole-of-DA approach in program implementation and to support the DA RFO BP2 Teams, a Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of the DA RFO BP2 Focal Person and representatives from Regional Management Committee (RMC) member agencies/bureaus shall be created.
4. The DA BP2 Director-Coordinator shall be the permanent alternate of the Secretary in the BP2 Council and cascade the resolutions, agreements, and/or commitments of the Department to the operating units/RFOs for appropriate action.
5. The AFID/Communications Group shall represent DA in the BP2 Communication Group, with NEDA as the lead convenor, to:
 - a. provide inputs in communicating DA policies and programs in support to BP2;
 - b. develop IEC materials for DA's stakeholders; and
 - c. ensure alignment with overall BP2 messaging and communication strategy.
6. The REDs shall represent DA in the R/LDCs to coordinate program activities and interventions particularly with the concerned LGUs.
7. The DA RFO BP2 Teams shall coordinate their respective activities and interventions with other agencies/partners, such as the P/(M/C) LGUs, academe, CSO-NGO-CBOs, and private sector, to ensure synergy in program implementation.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. A monitoring and evaluation, and reporting system for DA BP2 shall be established by the DA-ICTS in collaboration with the DA BP2 Program Office.


The system shall contain the beneficiaries' profile/basic information, DA interventions and status of implementation, among others, to be populated and regularly updated by regional DA BP2 program implementers. The system may be enhanced as needed.



The system must be able to track the status of each BP2 program beneficiary, DA support, and other documentation requirements.

2. Periodic assessment of beneficiaries will be conducted to:
 - a. determine progress in terms of household food sufficiency, livelihood, and employment opportunities and collective enterprise development; and
 - b. monitor compliance of beneficiaries whether they and/or their households are still in their relocation sites, have transferred to other areas or have returned to the National Capital Region.
3. Periodic monitoring reports shall be generated to serve as inputs to REDs/DA BP2 Director-Coordinator/DA Secretary in the regular Council meetings and day-to-day operations.

Approved:


WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
Secretary

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