



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

DEPARTMENT ORDER

NO. 13

Series of 2020

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM'S FILIPINO FACES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AWARDS

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is the government agency responsible for the development of the agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country through the provision of appropriate support services, which will enhance farm productivity, profitability, and resource sustainability;

WHEREAS, the DA Biotech Program provides support to help move the agriculture and fisheries sector from a resource-based to technology-based sector according to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act or AFMA of 1997 (R.A. 8435);

WHEREAS, the development and better use of agricultural biotechnology as one of the technology options for food security, sector competitiveness, and resilience to climate change demands for a critical mass of creative agricultural scientists and researchers;

WHEREAS, in observance of the Presidential Proclamation No. 1414 series of 2007, the National Biotechnology Week celebrates the meaningful contribution of biotechnology in the field of food and agriculture, environment, health and wellness, and industry development;

WHEREAS, the DA Biotechnology Program has established the Filipino Faces of Biotechnology Award in order to recognize outstanding Filipino individuals who have contributed to and/or played a significant role in the advancement of biotechnology in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Department Order prescribing the guidelines for the selection of recipients of DA Biotechnology Program's Filipino Faces of Biotechnology Awards.

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ARTICLE I
THE FILIPINO FACES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AWARD

Section 1: Description

- 1.1. The idea behind the Filipino Faces of Biotechnology Award was pondered over in the halls of the Cornell University way back in 2015. The idea came out in the midst of planning for a Biotech campaign called “Alliance for Science” by five (5) delegates from the public sector, research organization, academe, and religious sector in the Philippines.
- 1.2. The award has been inspired by the popular social media page called “Humans of New York” that presents memorable photographs and motivational stories of strangers about their lives.
- 1.3. This recognition aims to feature Filipino researchers, scientists, farmers, fisherfolks, communicators, advocates, journalists, and students from all walks of life who made or continue to make a mark in the field of biotechnology.
- 1.4. The Filipino Faces of Biotechnology Award is given during the celebration of the National Biotechnology Week, which is held annually during the last week of November.
- 1.5. The number of awardees may vary depending on the number of qualified nominees as long as the maximum number of awardees will not exceed 10 per year.

Section 2: Objectives

Filipino Faces of Biotechnology Award is created to:

- 2.1. connect biotechnology with people by sharing real-life learning personal stories from our chosen Faces;
- 2.2. share the behind-the-scenes experiences, roles, and contributions to the advancement of biotechnology in the country, challenges they have embraced, and obstacles they have overcome; and,
- 2.3. celebrate the country’s journey to much farther miles in the advancement and genuine public acceptance and support to the use of biotechnology in the fields of Agriculture, Health, Environment, Information and Education, and Policy.

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**ARTICLE III
ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS**

Section 1: Eligibility Criteria

- 1.1. Must be a Filipino citizen;
- 1.2. Must be of good moral character; and,
- 1.3. Must be a scientist, researcher, farmer, fisherfolk, civil servant, communicator, journalist, advocate, or legislator in the field of biotechnology.

Section 2: Documentary Requirements

- 2.1. Nomination for the Award shall be made by heads of government or private institutions, academic institutions and organizations, or farmer-groups.
- 2.2. The accomplished nomination form shall be submitted to the DA Biotech Program (bpo@da.gov.ph) addressed to the Program Director-Coordinator.
- 2.3. The deadline for submission of nominations is every 31st of July of each year for the awarding year, subject to extension.

**ARTICLE IV
SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS**

Section 1: Screening and Selection Committee

- 1.1. A Screening and Selection Committee, composed of advocates/champions of biotechnology, will be formed by the DA Biotech Program.
- 1.2. The Committee shall include distinguished scientists, communicators, farmers, and former awardees chosen by the DA Biotech Program Office.

Section 2: Screening and Selection Process

- 2.1. The search/call for the nomination with the mechanics will be posted to the official page of the DA Biotech Program and other social media platforms and advertise through the Program's network.
- 2.2. The Committee shall evaluate each nominee using the criteria specified in *Section 3 of this article*.
- 2.3. The Committee shall select the top five to ten possible awardees. The chosen *Faces* shall be endorsed to the DA Secretary.

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2.4. The DA Secretary shall award the recognition.

Section 3: Criteria for Judging

- 3.1. *Ninety Percent (90%)* is provided for exceptional contributions to the advancement of biotechnology in the country through his/her efforts in R&D, policy, advocacy and, communication; and,
- 3.2. *Ten Percent (10%)*: is for the awards and citations received by the nominees related to biotechnology.

ARTICLE V AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Section 1: The Filipino Faces of Biotechnology Award

The chosen *Faces* are entitled to receive the following:

- 1.1. The title of Filipino Face of Biotechnology; and,
- 1.2. A trophy/plaque of recognition.

ARTICLE VI EFFECTIVITY

This Department Order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Done this 14th day of November 2020.


WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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