



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 41
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SAAD) PROGRAM AND THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (BAR) RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT (R4D) PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

I. Introduction

This Memorandum Circular aims to enhance the implementation of the SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SAAD) PROGRAM through partnership with the BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (BAR). This Memorandum Circular states the partnership's rationale, objectives, eligibility, implementation mechanics, duration, coverage, funding, program management, and monitoring and evaluation.

II. Rationale

The Department of Agriculture (DA), with its slogan "Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita", envisions a food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk. Through its SAAD Program, the DA aims to empower farmers and fisher from the thirty (30) poorest provinces in the country, increasing their agricultural productivity and profitability. To achieve this end, there is a need for concerted efforts to help farmers and fisherfolk transition from subsistence farming to enterprise formation. This however, remains a challenge. Hence, the use of sustainable, competitive and resilient agricultural and fisheries technologies and practices is necessary to facilitate this.

The SAAD needs the assistance and support of the BAR to provide production, post-harvest and marketing technologies to help ensure the success of its livelihood projects, DA Memorandum Circular 15, series of 2019 which prescribes the guidelines for the implementation of SAAD Program for FY 2020-2022 states that: "The SAAD shall also work with the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) for the research and development requirements of the program."

Possible partnership activities are with the BAR's Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR), Integrated and Diversified Farming Systems Program (IDFSP), and the National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) which are DA-BAR R4D programs facilitating transfer and utilization of mature technologies.

The Community-based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) is a location-specific research cum extension activity that deals with improved farming systems technologies for specific micro agro-climatic environment within barangays and communities. It is a downstream research focused on technology verification and adaptation/ demonstration in the community.

A food-secure Philippines

with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk



The Integrated and Diversified Farming Systems Program (IDFSP), a crisis response initiative which promotes sustainable and farming systems and mature production and post-production technologies. In time of crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic, an integrated, diversified and market-oriented farming system can involve more farmers and improve their productivity and profitability, thereby ensuring availability, affordability and accessibility of food for Filipinos.

The National Technology Commercialization Program (NTCP) highlights research breakthroughs and mature technologies that could help improve and develop agriculture and fisheries-related industries for the benefit of all stakeholders of the DA. It ensures the transformation of agriculture and fisheries from resource-based to technology-based industries through activities emphasizing technology transfer, adoption, and utilization, and promotion of mature technologies.

This partnership also seeks to support the DA Secretary's call for Food Systems Policy Shifts to support the agricultural sector's role in supplying the food requirements of the population based on the New Food Security and Resiliency Development Framework: 1) Increasing food sufficiency levels of basic food and other commodities; 2) Focusing on production-to-consumption value chain, empowering the marginalized sector and support diverse distribution efforts with good logistics; 3) Addressing hunger and all forms of malnutrition, such as obesity and micro nutrient deficiencies, through production and consumption of nutritious foods; and 4) Adopting context-specific policies recognizing differences between urban and rural settings.

It is envisioned that this partnership between SAAD and BAR will help ensure the complementation and sustainability of agriculture-based livelihood projects especially in the 30 poorest provinces of the country.

III. Objectives

A. General: To establish the partnership mechanisms between BAR R4D Programs and the SAAD Program in support to DA's Food Security and Resiliency Development Framework.

B. Specific:

1. To identify and establish the complementation areas of BAR R4D Programs and the SAAD Program in the delivery of appropriate and suitable technical assistance (technologies, inputs, training/capacity building and linking activities) to the program/project beneficiaries; and
2. To ensure the success, sustainability, and scalability of these complementation efforts of the BAR R4D projects and SAAD livelihood projects for the farmers and fisherfolk group beneficiaries.

IV. Beneficiary Eligibility

A. The beneficiaries of the SAAD-BAR Partnership Program shall be members of existing farmer and fisherfolk cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in the identified SAAD provinces.



- B. They should be eligible based on the SAAD Implementing Guidelines (DA Memorandum Circular 15, Series of 2019) and the guidelines of the BAR R4D Programs as mentioned.

V. Mechanics of Implementation and Partnership

The SAAD National Program Monitoring Office (NPMO) and BAR shall come up with joint collaborative plans that will set out the goals, objectives, targets and strategies for the specific activities of the partnership. It shall also prepare the targets and criteria for selection of project sites and cooperators/beneficiaries (FCAs), both for existing and common sites and for new sites.

A. For Existing and Common Sites:

1. BAR and SAAD shall determine existing and common project sites.
2. BAR shall provide SAAD its profile of completed and ongoing BAR-funded CPAR, IDFSP, and NTCP projects and the specific technologies with potential for upscaling and/or outscaling for possible collaboration and continuous support. Similarly, SAAD shall provide BAR the profiles of its completed and ongoing projects for the latter to identify and recommend specific package of technologies to contribute on the SAAD sites.
3. SAAD and DA-BAR shall identify the priority convergence project sites to be covered for possible upscaling and/or outscaling assistance by the partnership based on the criteria identified.
4. After the project sites are identified, the implementing units shall convene to discuss the needed strategies (e.g., conduct community needs assessment, action planning, stakeholders' consultation) integrate the work plans and identify the specific partnership activities/interventions. For the DA Regional Field Offices (DA RFOs), these are the Research Divisions and SAAD Regional Program Management Support Offices (RPMSOs). For the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources BFAR Regional Offices (BFAR ROs), these are the BFAR SAAD office and the BFAR RRDEN (Regional Research Dev't. and Extension Network) Focals for Fisheries.

B. For New Projects and Sites

1. Based on the agreed criteria, the DA RFOs and the BFAR ROs shall conduct site selection, prioritization, appraisal and validation for the preparation of a joint Community Action Plan.
2. The list of identified sites and corresponding Community Action Plans for each project site shall be collated by the DA RFO/BFAR RO and will be submitted to the SAAD NPMO and BAR for review, evaluation and possible approval. Technology constraints and opportunities shall be identified as entry points where the DA Research Division/BFAR RRDEN Focals in close coordination with member institutions from the Regional R&D Network will complement with the SAAD RPMSO/BFAR SAAD office.



3. These shall also be coordinated with concerned Divisions of the DA RFOs/BFAR ROs for linkage and harmonization purposes.
- C. Major component activities to be implemented by DA RFO's and BFAR under the partnership shall include:
1. Community needs assessment and action planning
 2. Community Organizing and Mobilizing
 3. POT demonstration, upscaling and/or outscaling in form of inputs, machineries/equipment for production and postproduction
 4. Capacity and Capability Building
 5. Linkaging and networking with partners and other stakeholders
 6. Crafting of Marketing and Sustainability Plan
- D. Expense items for assistance and interventions are on:
1. Supplies and Materials (Agricultural and Office/ICT)
 2. Communications
 3. Travel
 4. Training
 5. Manpower requirements
 6. Minor Equipment and Machinery Outlay
- E. The DA RFOs/BFAR ROs shall prepare the proposal for submission to SAAD NPMO and BAR based on the Community Action Plans. The same shall be endorsed by the DA-RFO Region Executive Director or BFAR Regional Director for review, evaluation and possible funding of SAAD and/or BAR.
- F. Once approved by the Program Management Team (PMT) the proposals shall be jointly funded by SAAD program in the region and BAR Programs. Specific items, component activities and deliverables shall be delineated by the SAAD and BAR to properly apportion and distribute the funding support to be provided.
- G. The approved proposals and action plans shall be jointly implemented by the DA RFOs/BFAR ROs.

VI. Duration

The partnership between SAAD and BAR will begin in 2021 and will cease in 2022 unless sooner revoked or suspended or otherwise extended by relevant law or issuance of the DA.

VII. Coverage

The SAAD-BAR partnership will be done within the SAAD's 30 provinces, namely:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| CAR | - | Apayao, Mt. Province, Kalinga |
| MIMAROPA | - | Occidental Mindoro |
| Region V | - | Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon |
| Region VI | - | Antique, Negros Occidental |
| Region VII | - | Negros Oriental, Bohol, Siquijor |
| Region VIII | - | Northern Samar, Samar, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte |

A food-secure Philippines

with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk





- Region IX - Zamboanga Del Norte and Sulu (last province is under the jurisdiction of DA-RFO IX)
- Region X - Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Lanao del Sur (last province is under the jurisdiction of DA-RFO X)
- Region XI - Davao de Oro (formerly Compostela Valley)
- Region XII - North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao (last province under the jurisdiction of DA-RFO XII)
- Region XIII - Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur

VIII. Funding

Funding of the proposed projects shall be provided by both SAAD and BAR in accordance with the government's accounting and auditing rules and regulations and shall be discussed between and among the regional partners.

IX. Program Management

At the national level, the Program Management Team (PMT) shall be created which shall be led by the SAAD NPMO and the BAR. The team shall set and provide the policy and operational strategies and directions of the partnership program to their regional counterparts.

At the regional level, the DA RFOs/BFAR ROs shall work together in the planning and implementation of the collaborative projects. Regional Management teams shall also be created.

Special orders shall be issued specifying duties and responsibilities of the involved offices.

X. Monitoring and Evaluation

Both SAAD and BAR shall adopt a strict policy on transparency and accountability in the implementation of the partnership programs and activities pursuant to existing laws.

Overall monitoring and evaluation shall be led by the PMT.

Field monitoring shall be handled by DA RFOs/BFAR ROs through the Regional Management Teams. Submission to the PMT of progress and accomplishment reports including significant findings and other developments shall be made on a semi-annual basis or as often as may be deemed necessary. Said progress reports shall be reviewed and consolidated by the PMT for submission and submitted to the Office of the DA Undersecretary for Operations.

XI. Effectivity

These guidelines shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall supersede other issuances inconsistent herewith.

Done this 9th day of December 2020





Prepared by:


MYER G. MULA, Ph.D.
Director, SAAD Program 


VIVENCIO R. MAMARIL, Ph.D.
Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research 

Recommending Approval:


ENGR. ARIEL T. CAYANAN
Undersecretary for Operations

Approved:


WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-12-20-0157
Received : 12/04/2020 03:12 PM