



Joint Memorandum Circular

No. 03
Series of 2021

AMENDMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES OF THE CASH AND FOOD SUBSIDY FOR MARGINAL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK (CFSMFF)

WHEREAS, the CFSMFF program has a total of 890,794 target beneficiaries nationwide as identified in each sector namely coconut, corn, sugarcane, fishery, and indigenous peoples groups;

WHEREAS, since the launching of the CFSMFF Program in 23 November 2020, as of 20 January 2021, only twenty-seven percent (27%) of the total target ready vouchers are available for distribution nationwide. Out of these ready vouchers, only ten percent (10%) for food subsidy and thirteen percent (13%) for cash subsidy were utilized;

WHEREAS, upon regular meetings of the implementing agencies, partner government financial institution, and recognized suppliers, challenges in submission of beneficiary listing for the program were raised specifically on the set criteria for eligibility of each sectors;

WHEREAS, manifestations of challenges in distribution of cash and food subsidy were also raised specifically the low supply of food commodities in some target areas, absence of recognized and willing supplier to service a target area, poor signal and internet connection affecting the use of voucher management system in food subsidy distribution, and account management issues for deceased beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and its partner institutions for the program recognizes and responds to the need to immediately give out the cash and food subsidy to the eligible program beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, Department of Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar in the DA Management Committee Meeting on 13 January 2020 released a marching order to the implementing agencies of CFSMFF Program to expedite the release of the cash and food subsidy.

NOW, THEREFORE, recognizing the great need of the stakeholders for the subsidy and answer to the challenges faced in program implementation, the following amendments to the JMC No. 06 are adopted:

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Article VII. Procedures, Section A. Identification of List of Beneficiaries, number 1 is amended as:

VII. PROCEDURES

A. Identification and Submission of List of Beneficiaries

1. The criteria for selection and determination of eligible beneficiaries are hereby revised by the implementing agency for each sector (Annex A);

Article VII. Procedures, Section D. Supplier Recognition and Linkage is amended with additional provisions as follows:

D. Supplier Recognition and Linkage

6. The DA Recognized Suppliers may be allowed to amend submitted Conforme Form by submitting a request for amendment to DA AMAD.
7. AMAD to receive recognized supplier's request to adjust price of commodity as stated in the Conforme Form considering the prevailing market price in the area. The same shall be endorsed for approval of the DA-Regional Executive Director (DA-RED).
8. Allow beneficiary to determine the package of food assistance (any combination of the rice, chicken, and egg) to be funded out of the food subsidy worth of Pesos: Two Thousand (PhP2,000.00).

Article VII. Procedures, Section E. Account Management, number 1 is amended as:

E. Account Management

1. In the case of deceased beneficiaries, the following account management shall be adopted if:
 - a. *For Cancellation and Replacement*- If the voucher has not been released to the beneficiary yet, and not yet released to DBP for processing, the account of the deceased beneficiary will be cancelled and shall be replaced by an eligible beneficiary. The next of kin shall be prioritized as a replacement beneficiary provided that s/he is also registered in the RSBSA.

- b. *Presentation of Death Certificate*- If the deceased beneficiary was able to receive the voucher when s/he was alive, the representative shall be allowed to claim the assistance in behalf of the deceased beneficiary provided that the original copy of death certificate is presented together with the presentation of valid IDs of both the deceased beneficiary and his/her designated representative claiming the subsidy, and authorization letter from the Implementing Agencies.

Article VIII. Institutional Arrangements, Section B. Implementing Agencies, number 4 is amended as:

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

B. Implementing Agencies (IAs)

4. IAs to notify the beneficiaries of the unique reference code for food and cash and to allow local government units until municipal level to print the voucher code for distribution with maximum monitoring from the IAs and only when deemed necessary;

Article VIII. Institutional Arrangements, Section C. DA Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs), number 6 is amended as:

C. DA Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs)

6. Lead the sending of notification of reference codes and voucher codes to the corn farmer-beneficiaries and allow LGUs to print the voucher code for distribution with maximum monitoring from the RFOs and only when deemed necessary;

Article VIII. Institutional Arrangements, Section D. Local Government Units (LGUs) through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and City/Municipal Agriculturist, number 4 is amended as:

D. Local Government Units (LGUs) through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and City/Municipal Agriculturist

4. Allow LGUs until municipal level to print the voucher code for distribution with maximum monitoring from the IAs/RFOs and only when deemed necessary;

In addition to such amendments, the following are added to the amended Article VIII Procedures:

F. ACCESS AND USE TO THE VOUCHER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

1. DA Recognized Suppliers are allowed to conduct offline encoding of documents in the voucher management system if they are reported to conduct distribution in isolated areas with poor or no internet connection (Annex D);
2. DA Recognized Supplier will be allowed to encode the documents in the voucher management system until two (2) working days after the conduct of remote distribution;
3. DA-AMAD shall verify and report to the DA-CO through DA-FOS and DA-ICTS the schedule of remote distributions of the DA Recognized Supplier;
4. DA-ICTS to cancel duplicate accounts and identified deceased beneficiaries as endorsed by the DA-RFO/IAS;
5. Allow DA-ICTS to perform adjustments on transactions with error in encoding provided that a written request from the DA Recognized Supplier is submitted;
6. DA- AMAD are authorized to retrieve related and relevant information from the voucher management system for the purposes of:
 - a. For validation of reported claimed/unclaimed assistance;
 - b. QR Codes are not readable; and
 - c. For input of commodities not able to encode by the supplier.

G. MONETIZATION OF THE FOOD ASSISTANCE

1. Implementing agencies will be allowed to provide the full assistance to the farmer in the form of cash subsidy in case of any of the following:

- 4-14-2021
- a. Island municipalities (Annex E);
 - b. Municipalities with no identified/recognized and willing suppliers to participate in the food distribution (Annex F);
 - c. Municipalities affected by conflict (Annex G);
 - d. In case no voucher and/or reference number yet issued to the beneficiary for the initial Php3k and no transaction/s yet transmitted to DBP, DA-ICTS will send to DBP a one-time payment of total cash subsidy amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00), inclusive of the Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) previously allocated as food subsidy. Service Fee for Php50.00 for the account of DA.
 - e. For the monetization of the food subsidy amounting to Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) DA-ICTS to send a separate disbursement file (with new transaction/reference codes) to DBP. The service fee amounting to Php50.00 shall be for the account of the farmer-beneficiary.

All other items not amended in the JMC shall remain in effect. All existing rules and regulations, orders or parts thereof, inconsistent with this JMC's provisions, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

If any portion of this JMC is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts thereof which are not affected, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

This amended JMC shall take effect immediately after signing and will remain valid until revoked in writing by competent authority. Likewise, it shall be published in the DA Website and shall be filed under the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).



WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

EMMANUEL G. HERBOSA
President and CEO
Development Bank of the Philippines

1.

EDUARDO B. GONGONA
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources

BENJAMIN R. MADRIGAL, JR
Administrator
Philippine Coconut Authority

ALLEN A. CAPUYAN
Chairperson
National Commission on
Indigenous Peoples

HERMENIGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator
Sugar Regulatory Administration