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

SPECIAL ORDER
No. 796
Series of 2021

SUBJECT : CREATION OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON CASCADING WATER CATCHMENT SYSTEM PROJECT

One of the important adaptation measures to mitigate the challenges of climate change on agriculture is the construction of cascading water catchment system facilities in flood and drought-prone areas of the country. While such projects are being implemented to a certain degree by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), its implementation should be enhanced and upscaled through a combination of the issuance of an official policy framework by the Department of Agriculture as a matter of development priority, and the actual implementation of such projects at micro-watershed level in the country on a pilot scale basis and eventually upscaling to cover more areas.

To fulfill the DA's mandate, *"Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita"*, which aims to help Filipino farmers and fisherfolk to achieve higher productivity and income, **Cascading Water Catchment System Project** will be implemented in selected areas in the country. It aims to store excess runoff or increase surface and subsurface water which farmers can use for irrigation during the dry season. Additionally, this system will store and manage rainwater during the rainy season to reduce flooding resulting in destruction of agricultural resources and livelihood.

As such, to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the project, a Technical Working Group is hereby created composed of the following:

A. PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Chair:	**DR. LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN, CESO I** Chief of Staff
Vice-Chair:	**DR. FERMIN D. ADRIANO** Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research
Members:	**ENGR. ARIEL T. CAYANAN** Undersecretary for Operations
	ENGR. PABLO M. MONTALLA Director, Bureau of Soils and Water Management

DR. JUNEL B. SORIANO
Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research

Duties and responsibilities:

The project advisory group shall provide the policy direction and overall guidance in the implementation of the Cascading Water Catchment System Project.

B. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Chair: **DR. GINA P. NILO**
Assistant Director for Research and Operations, BSWM

Vice-Chair: **ENGR. ERNESTO B. BRAMPIO**
Chief, Water Resources Management Division (WRMD), BSWM

Members:

Office/Unit	Permanent Members	Alternate Members
Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE)	Engr. Emer-Rose Asug Engineer III	Engr. Mary Jane Lazatin Engineer II
Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO)	Dr. Saturnina Halos Senior Technical Advisor	Ms. Perla Baltazar Senior Technical Staff
Field Operations Service (FOS)- Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistant Division (SPCMAD)	Ms. Angelita D. Martir OIC Chief, SPCMAD	Engr. Mark Lester Red DMO II
Project Development Service (PDS)	Fernando D. Flores OIC Director, PDS	Rowel B. Del Rosario OIC Chief, PIED Elizabeth G. Padre Chief, PPRMD

Duties and Responsibilities:

a) Draft a policy guideline to promote the implementation of the Cascading Water Catchments System Project;
b) Coordinate with appropriate government agencies (e.g., DENR, DPWH, NIA) for possible complementation of their current initiatives in the identified watersheds;

c) Provide technical inputs and other relevant information in the preparation of the Project Concept Paper in coordination with the development partner's team/consultant;
d) Formulate a project concept note on Cascading Water Catchment System that can be used as a basis for negotiating with development partner agencies in preparing a full-blown project loan proposal;
e) Conduct initial negotiations with any development partner agencies on the possibility of funding the project;
f) Submit its progress report to the Secretary three months after the issuance of this Special Order; and
g) Perform other tasks as needed.

C. SECRETARIAT:

Head: **MS. MAUREEN D. MALABANAN**
BSWM- WRMD

Members: **ENGR. JOSELLE R. LUNA**
BSWM- WRMD

ENGR. PHOEBE P. PUA
BSWM- WRMD

MS. JANICE C. CASTRO
BSWM-DO

Duties and responsibilities:

a) Provide technical and administrative assistance to the TWG and coordinate with the concerned DA units;
b) Document meetings, workshops and trainings, relative to the implementation of the project; and
c) Perform other tasks as needed.

Technical experts from other agencies/offices within and outside of the DA, LGUS, SUCs and relevant stakeholders with expertise in the field of small-scale irrigation and technology innovation may be invited to serve as resource persons, if and when necessary.

All officials and employees of the Department, including its Bureaus, Attached Agencies and Corporations, and Regional Field Offices are hereby directed to give their full support and cooperation to the Cascading Rainwater Catchment Technical Working Group in the course of their project preparations.

The expenses to be incurred for the conduct of activities related to the performance of the functions and assigned tasks, shall be chargeable against the funds of their respective offices, subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing. All orders, memoranda and issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked.

Done this 24th day of October 2021.

WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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