



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

## MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 01  
Series of 2022

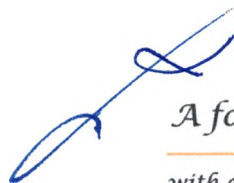
**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL HYBRID RICE CLUSTER FARMS**

### I. RATIONALE

The adoption of hybrid rice technology is one of the approaches to increasing rice production yield. Hybrid rice varieties have varied adaptability, with the performance of a specific hybrid rice variety affected by several factors such as geography, topography, and climate. Crop management also affects hybrid rice varieties, such as fertilizer application and other farm practices. Considering that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach in attaining the maximum yield potential of this technology, the conduct of a technology showcase in cluster farms would allow the observation of the adaptability of the different hybrid rice technologies in different locations. Results from the Hybrid Rice Cluster Farms can be used as a reference for the identification of varieties to be commercialized pursuant to Memorandum Circular 11 Series of 2021 "Enhancing the Focus of the Hybrid Rice Program, Optimizing its Yield Advantage and Attainable Yield" and Memorandum Order 58 Series of 2021 "Guidance for the Attainment of Higher Rice Production in 2022, Going Beyond the 2020 and 2021 Rice Production".

Moreover, these cluster farms will serve as learning sites to enable farmers to observe and learn first-hand the actual practice of improved crop management and new technologies that promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Farm clusters also facilitate sharing of experiences in a farmer-to-farmer setting. They are essential avenues that support knowledge co-creation between farmers and other stakeholders. Hence, cluster farms play a vital role in enabling the adoption of hybrid rice and other technologies related to rice production.

The development of Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farms supports the preparation for full implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling. They present modalities to showcase the collaboration of the National Government, Local Government Units (LGUs) and Private Sector through co-implementation and co-investment in service delivery for the agriculture sector and also showcase the complete value chain from production, processing to marketing in one cluster area.



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## II. OBJECTIVE

The project aims to showcase hybrid rice production to promote farmers' adoption of new technology.

Specifically, this project aims to:

1. Generate data that will promote the adoption of recommended hybrid rice varieties, technologies, and management practices.
2. Showcase the clustering approach for production, harvesting, processing, and marketing.

## III. PROJECT SCOPE

The provincial hybrid rice cluster farms shall be implemented starting the Dry Season 2021-2022 and continue every cropping season. The cluster farms will be established in target provinces with significant hybrid rice harvested area, namely: Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Isabela, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Camarines Sur, Iloilo, Leyte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat. These cluster farms will also be established in other provinces outside RCEF areas but in a smaller scale.

## IV. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Site Selection

The minimum area for a cluster farm site is one hundred (100) hectares in 15 hybrid provinces and fifty (50) hectares in non-RCEF provinces. The cluster farm site should have a road network making it accessible to service providers of farm and postharvest machineries, facilities, and equipment. The site should have an irrigation facility that provides sufficient water for two (2) croppings in a year. Farmers in the cluster farms should belong to existing active farmers' associations or cooperatives (registered under CDA or SEC). Preferably, recipient of operational RPC and other farm equipment or machineries. Members of FCAs must be willing to adopt or accept recommended farming technologies. Farmers must be willing to be trained in agri-entrepreneurship.

### B. Area Profiling

Before establishing the demonstration farms, the implementers will conduct soil analysis to determine the sites' soil chemical, physical and biological conditions to determine the soil nutrient or health condition. The implementers shall likewise collect the agro-climatic data in the selected sites. The information will be used in developing the adoption parameters for the showcased technologies.



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C. Technology Showcase

1. Hybrid rice varieties

Each participating hybrid rice company or agency will plant a maximum of three varieties of hybrid rice.

2. Crop Establishment

Different crop establishments shall be showcased in the farm clusters. These shall include manual or mechanical transplanting technology or direct seeding using precision seeder, drum seeder, and drone.

3. Farm Mechanization

The concerned agencies or partners shall demonstrate farm machineries in the different stages of crop production. The demonstration will include precision seeder, drum seeder, and drones for crop establishment; drones for fertilizer application and pests and diseases control, and mechanical and combine harvesters for harvesting and threshing.

4. Nutrient Management

The appropriate fertilizer grades, amounts/quantities, and time of applications shall be demonstrated in the cluster farms. The use of foliar fertilizers/soil ameliorants to address micronutrient deficiencies will be showcased in the cluster farms. All fertilizers and soil ameliorants applications shall be recorded for reference in the packaging of technology.

D. Clustering Approach

1. Community Mobilization and Organization

Social mobilization and capacity building are key for developing the community as partners in planning, implementation, monitoring, and influencing behavior among its farmer-members. Part of the activities to be done under this component are community entry, project briefing, and community organizing.

2. Production and Processing

The provision of basic inputs like seeds and fertilizers would be given to the identified clusters to support the wide-scale adoption of new technologies. Farm machineries and equipment will also be provided for ease of access to more practices within the clusters.

3. Marketing

Cluster's agripreneurship capacity like enterprise and financial management shall be strengthened to expand and continue their operations in a business manner. Consolidation of cluster production will give the cluster farms bargaining power. Clusters could also be linked to rice mills that will allow them to sell milled rice instead

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of palay. The suitable business will be explored and developed using the attached business models as guide (Annex A).

#### **V. PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS AND PARTNERS**

1. DA-RFO shall conduct conceptualization meetings with implementing partners (LGU, Private Hybrid Seed Companies, and NGA);
2. The Working Group shall identify the implementation arrangements to include cost-sharing;
3. DA-RFO shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the participating parties where their respective roles will be defined, which may include the following:
  - a. DA-RFO provides counterpart funding, human resources, and other forms of support in the project implementation as stipulated in the agreements with the partner implementers (PLGUs, Private sector, FCAs). The seeds and fertilizer subsidy under the NRP will be used in the Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farm, including the machinery, equipment, and other post-harvest facilities provided in the pilot farm clustering program.
  - b. Through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, the Provincial Local Government Units (PLGU) recommends to the Working Group the regular site for the Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farm based on parameters identified in these guidelines. The Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farm will be part of the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service (PAFES), where PLGU provides counterpart funds, workforce, and other forms of support in the project implementation.
  - c. The private and public sector partners provide the seeds (particularly the new varieties) and production inputs for demonstration, which are not included in the commercialization program. Each private seed company and government agency will have at least five (5) hectares in the Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farm. They will provide the counterpart production inputs and technical assistance in implementing the project. Suppose the private/public sector partners will not fully occupy the 100 or 50 hectares. In that case, the area's balance will be provided only with regular assistance under the National Rice Program.
  - d. The farmer-cooperators in the Provincial Hybrid Rice Cluster Farm provide the day-to-day maintenance of the demo farm in coordination with the technicians of both public and private sector partners.
4. The Working Group shall jointly evaluate the site recommended and create an implementing plan following the activities identified in this guidelines;
5. The Working Group shall jointly implement the plan in the selected site. Data gathering will be regularly conducted and will be reported to DA-RFO.; and
6. At the end of every season, the Working Group shall package a report on the performances of the clusters.

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#### VI. MONITORING AND REPORTING SCHEME

1. In coordination with DA-Field Programs Coordination and Monitoring Division (FPCMD), the DA-National Rice Program shall establish an information and monitoring system that RFOs will use for regular monitoring of the project.
2. DA- Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) shall coordinate with the members of the Working Group to conduct a need-analysis to identify the current status of the clusters.
3. The Working Group shall conduct capacity building and training to develop production, processing, and marketing skills.
4. DA- Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) shall coordinate with the members of the Working Group to provide periodic reports in compliance with the monitoring system set by the DA-Central Office. The regular report will contain status updates, issues/concerns encountered, and recommendations for improving the service delivery.
5. At the end of the season, the Working Group shall prepare a terminal report which will include performances of the varieties planted in the cluster farm. The technologies used shall also be included in the terminal report.
6. Evaluation will be conducted after every season to assess the efficiency of the interventions provided to the clusters.


#### VII. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES

The DA-RFOs may formulate detailed supplemental guidelines for the implementation of the provincial demonstration farm, subject to the approval of the Secretary to consider the peculiarity of the area.

#### VIII. EFFECTIVITY

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

Done this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

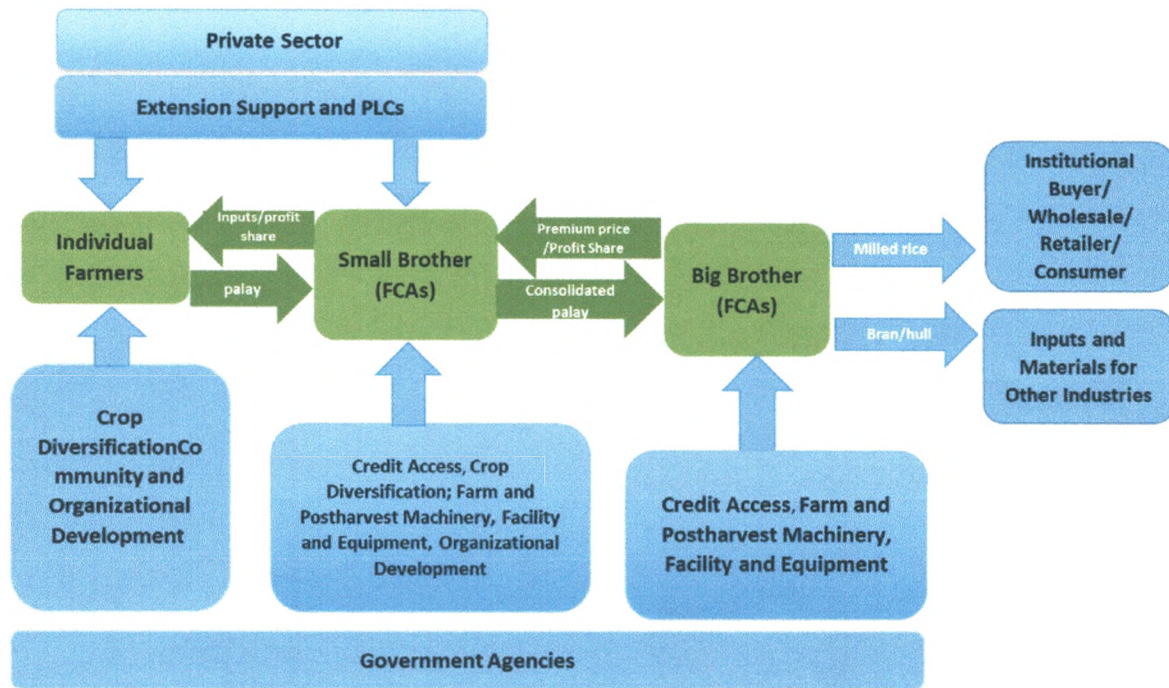
  
**WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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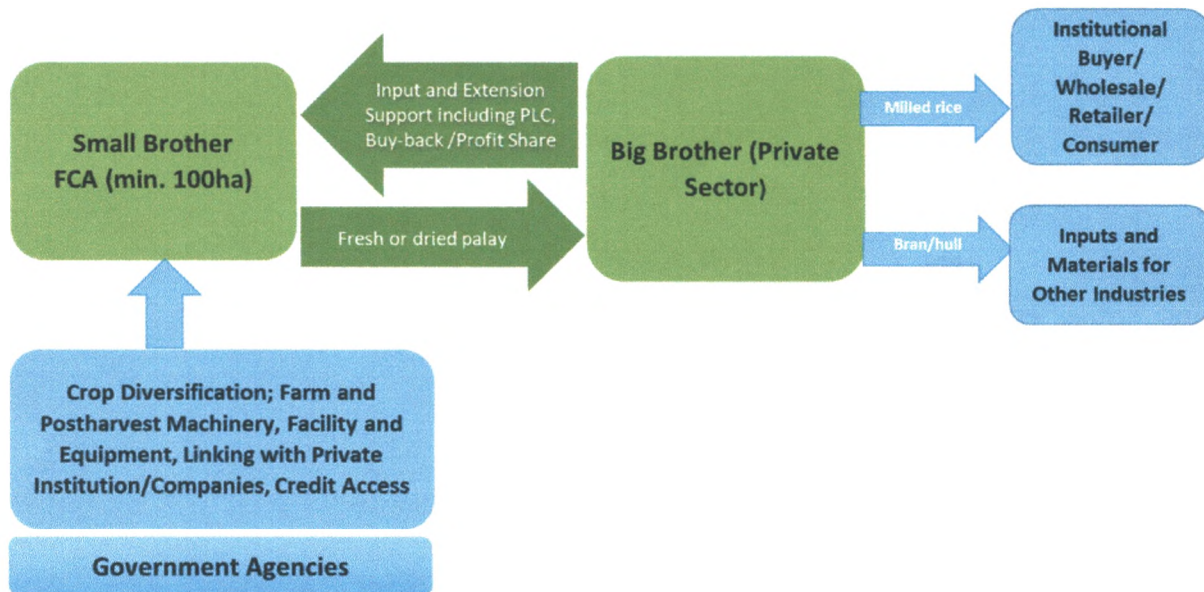
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## Annex A. Business Models for Hybrid Rice Production



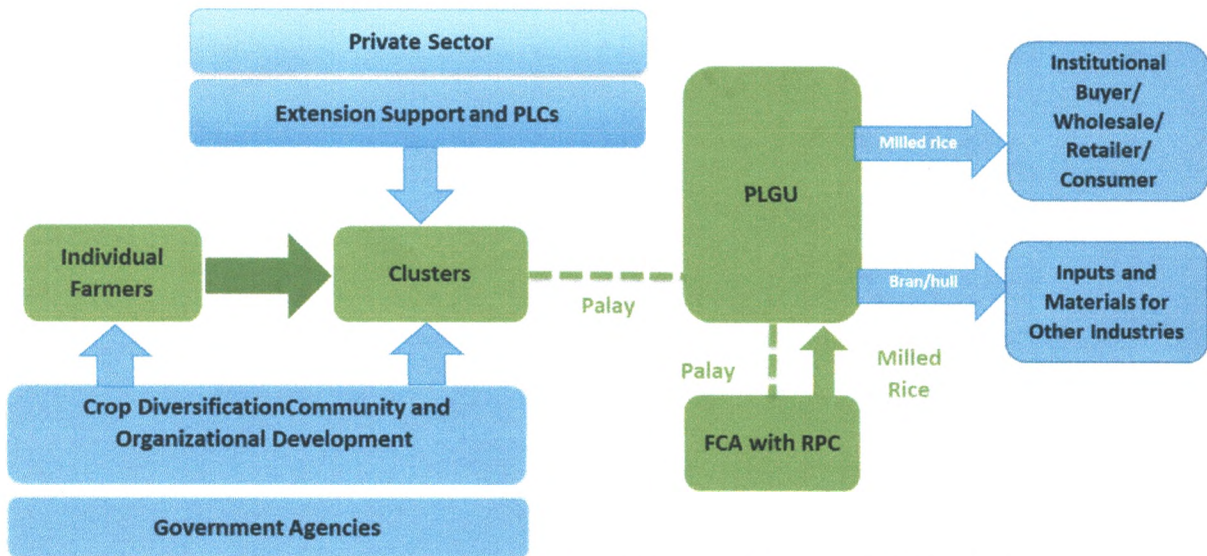
Model 1: Big Brother (FCAs) – Small Brother (FCAs) Model in Clustering Approach in Hybrid Rice Production.



Model 2: Big Brother (Private Sectors)-Small Brother (FCAs) Model in Clustering Approach in Hybrid Rice Production

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Model 3: PLGUs –FCAs Model in Clustering Approach in Hybrid Rice Production

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