



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

Memorandum Order

No. 32

Series of 2022

SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH-QUALITY SEEDS (HYBRID AND CERTIFIED SEEDS) UNDER THE NATIONAL RICE PROGRAM

I. RATIONALE

The Philippines as a rice producing country faces several challenges that affect our rice yield. These include rising prices of farm inputs, unpredictable weather conditions, and the increasing resistance of rice pests and diseases to pesticides. Apart from these concerns, the insufficient water irrigation for agriculture limits the expansion of rice areas. Also, areas of arable lands are slowly diminishing due to the conversion of farmlands to other uses.

With these identified factors, increasing the average rice production at the farm level is the most fitting solution to improve and optimize agricultural productivity. This can be achieved by adopting high yielding technologies that are accessible to rice farmers across the country.

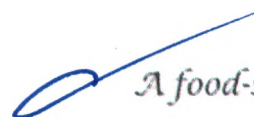
The use of high-quality seeds is one of the most important contributors to the increased rice production. Selecting high yielding varieties adapted to the area of production, with other desirable characteristics, are basic keys for satisfactory crop performance and yield.

The National Rice Program (NRP) has 15 focus provinces for hybrid seed distribution. This is out of the original 57 target provinces of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). The focus provinces under the NRP were identified to have high potential for hybrid rice adoption based on the magnitude of area planted to hybrid rice. Furthermore, the rice areas in the remaining 25 non-RCEF provinces were also targeted for distribution for high-quality seeds to improve rice productivity.

II. OBJECTIVES

The project aims to improve productivity of our farmers in rice production by expanding high quality seed distribution and utilization of hybrid and certified seed varieties. Specifically, the project intends to:

1. Promote the use of hybrid and inbred rice certified seed varieties most appropriate for specific location and season;
2. Increase the adoption of high-quality seeds;



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3. Obtain a yield increment of 1mt/ha for hybrid and 0.5mt/ha for certified seeds by 2023-2024 Dry Season; and
4. Increase farmers' income.

III. PROJECT SCOPE

Seed support shall be distributed in the 15 hybrid focus provinces and 25 non-RCEF provinces with irrigated and rainfed lowland areas.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A. Varietal Selection

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the National Rice Program (NRP) shall recommend the National Seed Industry Council (NSIC)- rice varieties to be procured, distributed, and utilized for this project. The following are the criteria for selection of varieties:

- i. Hybrid Seeds
 - a. Hybrid seed varieties must have undergone field trials (technology demonstration) and produced a yield of at least 5mt/ha or at least 1mt/ha higher than inbred seeds. Yield data from other related studies can be used as basis for the procurement of seeds;
 - b. Locally produced hybrid seeds shall be prioritized in the procurement and distribution of seeds;
 - c. A bag of 15 kilograms to 18 kilograms per hectare shall be procured and distributed to farmer-beneficiaries. Packaging of smaller bags of 3 kilograms, 5 kilograms, and 6 kilograms shall be made available; and
 - d. The seeds to be procured and distributed must have at least 85% germination rate.
- ii. Certified Seeds
 - a. Certification of seed varieties shall be based on PhilRice and Regional recommendations. Other varieties may also be procured and distributed based on farmers' preferences, subject to seed or location matching and availability within nearby areas;
 - b. Recommended certified seed varieties shall be distributed to farmer-beneficiaries in bags of 40 kilograms per hectare. Smaller bags of 10 kilograms or 20 kilograms can also be procured to be made available to small-scale farmers; and

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- c. The seeds to be procured and distributed must have at least 85% germination rate.

B. Distribution Process

Distribution shall be coursed through the DA-RFOs in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs);

C. Selection of Farmer-Beneficiaries

- i. Only farmers that are registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and encoded in the National Farmers' and Fishers' Online-Registry System (NFFRS) or the National Farmers and Fisheries Information System (NFFIS) shall be eligible to receive this support;
- ii. Preferably, the Farmer-beneficiary is a member of a rice cluster or Farmer Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs); and
- iii. Farmers who have landholdings of two (2) hectares and below shall be prioritized.

V. ROLES OF PARTICIPATING OFFICES/UNITS

A. DA- Field Operations Service/National Rice Program

- i. Spearhead the overall coordination in the implementation of the project;
- ii. Conduct briefing with DA-RFOs and other agencies/offices involved in the project implementation;
- iii. Conduct operational monitoring and evaluation of the project;
- iv. Identify, analyze, and provide advice/strategies to address the operational bottlenecks of the project; and
- v. Submit monthly and terminal reports to the Office of the Secretary.

B. DA- Regional Field Offices

- i. Coordinate with LGUs in the identification of farmer-beneficiaries;
- ii. Validate the registration of farmers with RSBSA;
- iii. Initiate procurement of seeds from the input suppliers who can provide technical assistance on rice production to the farmer-beneficiaries;
- iv. Distribute seeds to farmer-beneficiaries thru the LGUs;
- v. Encode the distributed seeds in the Operations Management Information System (OMIS);
- vi. Conduct technical briefings in coordination with partner-Rice Board members and Local Government Units (LGUs) to

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farmers- beneficiaries;

- vii. Gather data from previous cropping season as benchmark information; and
- viii. Prepare and consolidate reports (distribution, planting, harvesting, etc.) for submission to DA FOS.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The reporting, and monitoring and evaluation system shall be led by the Field Programs Coordination and Monitoring Division (FPCMD). They shall conduct surveys for the distributed seeds planted and harvested by the beneficiaries. A pre-tested questionnaire shall be used during the survey. Reports shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, with complete observations and/or recommendations.

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES

The DA- RFOs may issue supplementary guidelines to address peculiar situations in their regions, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any clause, sentence, or provision of the Memorandum Order shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

IX. REPEALING CLAUSE

All other previous orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Memorandum Order are hereby repealed and revoked.

X. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Order shall be effective immediately upon signing and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing.

Done this 28th day of April, 2022.



WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.

Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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