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**DA-DAR-DENR-DILG JOINT MEMORANDUM ORDER (JMO) NO. 02**  
 Series of 2022

**SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AGRO-BIODIVERSITY (ABD) MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NCI-SRD) FRAMEWORK**

Pursuant to DA-DAR-DENR-DILG Joint Administrative Order No. 01 Series of 2020 (Revised DA-DAR-DENR-DILG Joint Administrative Order No. 01 Series of 2015 (Strengthening the Implementation Framework for the DA-DAR-DENR-DILG National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development)) and Chapter 8 (Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and Ensuring Food Security) of the Updated Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 to complement strategic efforts with environmental and governance strategies through the national convergence initiatives using the ridge-to-reef approach and the need for a climate and disaster vulnerability and risk assessment to deal with the impacts of natural hazards, the Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, and Interior and Local Government issue this Joint Memorandum Order (JMO) on the institutionalization of dynamic conservation and sustainable utilization of agrobiodiversity within the framework of the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development.

### **SECTION 1. Objective**

The following objectives must be achieved:


1. To institutionalize the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of ABD in convergence areas to achieve the overall objective of sustainable rural development, climate resilience, and poverty reduction;
2. To develop a proposed revision and updated prioritization criteria on selecting convergence areas that shall aid in the preparation of the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP); and
3. To institutionalize agro-biodiversity management in the convergence areas and enhance adaptive capacities of the communities through the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) and the Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG).

### **SECTION 2. Scope and Coverage**

This Order shall include the following:

- 2.1 Major programs of the NCI-SRD agencies involving agrobiodiversity, but not limited to:



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donor agencies, and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), IPs, and other relevant stakeholders.


- b. The importance of the LGUs as the integrating and converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall be strengthened.
- c. The participatory approach shall be adopted in all development phases: planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, and knowledge sharing.
- d. Complementation of resources and expertise of the concerned agencies and LGUs shall be considered in implementing the Convergence Initiative.
- e. Private sector investment shall be encouraged in convergence areas.

#### SECTION 4. Definition of Terms

For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be defined:

- 4.1 Agrobiodiversity refers to all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and all components of biological diversity that constitute the agroecosystems: the variety and variability of animals, plants, and micro-organisms, at the genetic, species, and ecosystem levels, which are necessary to sustain critical functions of the agroecosystem, its structure, and processes;
- 4.2 Climate Resilience refers to the adaptive capacity for a socio-ecological system to: (1) absorb stresses and maintain function in the face of external stresses imposed upon it by climate change and (2) adapt, reorganize, and evolve into more desirable configurations that improve the sustainability of the system, leaving it better prepared for future climate change impacts;
- 4.3 Dynamic conservation emphasizes a balance among conservation, adaptation, and socio-economic development. With this, the conservation of ABD is taken into the holistic, integrated approach of sustainable management of the agricultural resources, including looking into market incentives, branding and labeling of products and services, cultural promotion, and tourism-related activities;
- 4.4 Food security refers to the policy objective, plan, and strategy of meeting the food requirements of the present and future generations of Filipinos in substantial quantity, ensuring the accessibility, availability, and affordability of nutritious food for all, either through local production or importation, or both based on the country's existing and potential resources endowment and related production advantages and consistent with the overall national development objectives and policies;



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- 4.5 Indigenous knowledge systems and traditional practices (IKSTP) refers to systems, institutions, mechanisms, and technologies comprising a unique body of knowledge evolved through time that embody patterns of relationships between and among peoples and between peoples, their lands and resource environment, including such spheres of relationships which may include social, political, cultural, economic, religious spheres, and which are the direct outcome of the indigenous peoples, responses to specific needs consisting of adaptive mechanisms which have allowed indigenous peoples to survive and thrive within their given socio-cultural and biophysical conditions;
- 4.6 Ridge-to-reef approach refers to the holistic, collaborative, multiple-use, and sustainable management of all resources within the watershed.

## **Section 5. Institutional Arrangements and Terms of Reference**


The implementation of this Order shall be led by the NTWG at the national level and the RCI TWG at the regional level. Moreover, the existing NCI-SRD coordinating mechanisms shall be adopted. The NCI-SRD shall also encourage the participation of other national line agencies such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in the implementation of this JMO.

The following shall be the terms of reference of the DA-DAR-DENR-DILG NCI-SRD and the offices and agencies within the DA-DAR-DENR-DILG:

### **5.1 NCI-SRD**

1. The NCI-SRD NTWG, composed of the National Focal Person (NFP) as Chairperson and the four (4) Component Working Groups (CWGs) Chairpersons as members, shall oversee the implementation of this Order.
2. The NCI-SRD National Secretariat shall provide technical and administrative support to the NTWG in the performance of its tasks.
3. The NCI-SRD RCI TWGs, composed of the DA Regional Executive Director, and the DAR, DENR, DILG Regional Directors, shall implement and monitor the coordination mechanism in partnership with the LGUs in the convergence areas. It shall regularly report to the NTWG the status of implementation of this Order.
4. The four components of NCI-SRD implementation, namely: policy and advocacy (PA); agriculture, forestry and fisheries enterprise cluster and business development (AFFECBD); capacity development (CD); and knowledge management (KM), shall address the concerns and challenges of



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promoting the dynamic conservation and sustainable utilization of ABD within the convergence sites.

5. The PA CWG shall be responsible for reviewing and auditing conflicting and overlapping policies that hamper the implementation of agrobiodiversity-related PAPs of the NCI-SRD agencies. In addition, it shall recommend and draft relevant policy instruments that shall harmonize or improve existing policies on agrobiodiversity.
6. The AFFECBD CWG shall be responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the AFF-enterprise cluster and business within traditional agroecosystems in the convergence areas.
7. The CD CWG shall be responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the NCI-SRD national capacity development plan, which shall consider all ecosystems. It shall organize and manage all NCI-SRD learning and development (L&D) activities, including capacity building to Indigenous Peoples, farmers, and government personnel to support the enhancement of traditional farming practices and continuous capacity building of farmer producers to help sustain their enterprises.
8. KM CWG shall be responsible for developing and managing information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on agrobiodiversity.
9. The RCI TWG Secretariat shall provide technical and administrative support to the RCI TWG in the performance of its tasks.
10. The NFP shall report to the National Steering Committee (NSC) on the status of the implementation of this Order.

## 5.2 DA

1. The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) shall provide technical and support services through research and development on suitability, preservation, and conservation of soil and water for dynamic conservation and sustainable use of ABD.
2. The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) shall ensure the integration of research and development functions and enhance the participation of farmers, fisherfolk, the industry, and the private sector to develop and promote the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of ABD.
3. The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) shall serve and support the Philippine plant industry by ensuring the availability of quality seeds, plant food safety, the development of crop farming technologies, and safeguarding the plant industry.




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4. The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall coordinate and monitor the activities and projects relating to livestock and allied industries and recommend standards for quality in the manufacture, importation, labelling, advertising, distribution and sale of the same industries.
5. The Climate Resilience Agriculture Office (CRAO) shall provide Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) Maps as a reference for the identification of site-specific climate-responsive indicators and outcomes.
6. The Philippine Mechanization and Postharvest Development (PHilMech) shall generate, extend and commercialize appropriate and problem-oriented agriculture and fishery postharvest and mechanization technologies, practices and systems.
7. The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), through the Genetic Resources Division, shall lead the effort on conservation and management of rice genetic resources in the country.
8. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall implement its mandate to ensure protection, conservation, management, development, and good fisheries and aquatic resources utilization.
9. The Regional Field Offices (RFOs) shall provide technical and support services, agricultural machinery, equipment, facilities and infrastructure program, and regulatory support at the regional level.

### 5.3 DAR

1. The Policy and Research Service (PRS) shall, in coordination with other DAR units, lead in the integration of agrobiodiversity concepts in relevant DAR policies and the conduct of agrobiodiversity-related research.
2. The Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD) shall implement DAR programs and projects to increase productivity and resilience among agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the convergence areas. Interventions include the provision of governance/capacity building, financial support, sustaining livelihoods and enterprise development.
3. The Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO) shall provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) in identified critical areas covered by CARP.
4. The Project Management Service (PMS) shall provide technical assistance on the project development, management and resource mobilization on CARP covered areas. It shall also provide assistance in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of both foreign and locally funded projects.



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1. DA – Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO), Philippine Mechanization and Postharvest Development (PHilMech) and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).
2. DAR – Policy and Research Service (PRS), Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD), Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Office (FASPO), Planning Service (PS), Project Management Service (PMS), and Support Services Office (SSO).
3. DENR – Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Climate Change Service (CCS), Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), and Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
4. DILG – Bureau of Local Government and Development (BLGD)

### SECTION 3. Guiding Principles

This Order subscribes to the NCI-SRD guiding principles, as specified in Section 2 of the revised DA-DAR-DENR-DILG JAO No. 1 Series of 2020. These guiding principles are as follows:

- 3.1. Convergence Initiative is a response to the fragmented delivery of rural development services towards improved governance and optimized use of resources.
- 3.2. Convergence Initiative is a strategy to strengthen the Local Government Units (LGUs) to grow sustainable local economies.
- 3.3. The ridge-to-reef approach shall be the tool for the interventions in the convergence areas.
- 3.4. In response to the government's poverty reduction goal, the Convergence Initiative shall have a defined constituency. Interventions shall focus on smallholder farmers (agrarian reform beneficiaries or ARBs and non-ARBs), small fishermen, upland dwellers, and Indigenous Peoples (IPs).
- 3.5. The implementation of the Convergence Initiative shall be guided by the following:
  - a. The Convergence Initiative shall be treated as a complementation strategy between and among the NCI-SRD agencies (DA-DAR-DENR-DILG). It shall encourage the assistance of other national line agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs),



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5. The Planning Service (PS) shall ensure that programs are integrated into the agency-level plans, and the same is monitored and evaluated regularly.
6. The Support Services Office (SSO) shall provide policy and program development on support services relating to dynamic conservation and sustainable use of ABD.

#### 5.4 DENR

1. The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) shall ensure the alignment of policies, guidelines, and rules for the conservation of biodiversity in the implementation of Agro-biodiversity within the NCI Framework. It shall also provide technical and support services in policy formulation and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. It shall also ensure support from DENR Regional Field Offices in the implementation of Agro-biodiversity within the NCI Framework and promote that biodiversity conservation is explicitly mainstreamed in the implementation of activities in line with PBSAP and are aligned with BMB's regular activities in the field.
2. The Climate Change Service (CCS) shall assist in capacity-building activities related to mainstreaming climate change adaptation/ecosystem-based adaptation in plans and programs.
3. The Forest Management Bureau (FMB) shall promote the ridge-to-reef approach in all its projects and programs to sustainably protect, conserve, and manage forests and forest resources. Furthermore, it shall provide technical guidance and support to the dynamic conservation and sustainable utilization of ABD through policy formulation and program development.
4. The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) shall assist in providing science-based environment and natural resources information and the extension of technical assistance in the formulation and implementation of agro-biodiversity programs, activities, and projects of NCI-SRD.


#### 5.5 DILG

1. The Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) shall provide policy support to the Local Government Units (LGUs) in relation to programs on dynamic conservation and sustainable use of ABD.

### SECTION 6. Additional Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas

All nominated convergence areas shall be evaluated and selected using the must and prioritization criteria stipulated in the CADP Manual of Operations. Moreover, the



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proposed additional criteria mentioned below, which are unique features of agro-biodiversity, shall also be considered additional prioritization criteria in the revision of the CADP Manual of Operations.


1. *Presence of traditional AFF ecosystems and local/indigenous knowledge systems.* The convergence area should have conventional AFF ecosystems with significant agrobiodiversity and indigenous knowledge systems and traditional practices (IKSTP). The conservation of agro-biodiversity and adoption of IKSTP shall contribute significantly to the goal of the convergence initiative to contribute to the sustainability of biodiversity and functioning of ecosystem services and increase in adaptive capacities and resilience of ecosystems.
2. *Performs as Effective Buffer Zone of a Protected Area.* The convergence area may be adjacent to a protected area (PA) and serves as a buffer zone (as defined under the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act or NIPAS Act) to provide an added layer of protection to the PAs. Protected areas are sentinels of genetic materials that are important for domestic use and agriculture. Therefore, communities within these buffer zones are the immediate beneficiaries of these provisioning services of the protected area. The convergence area may also be within the multiple-use zone (MUZ) of the protected area where tenured migrants can apply agro-biodiversity practices.
3. *Vulnerability to Climate Risk.* The area is vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate events or related harms (e.g. flood, drought, storm surges, sea level rise, coastal flooding and erosion) which affect the ecosystems, economy, societies, and the communities. Existing site-specific Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) maps provided by DA CRAO can be used as a reference to assess the sustainability of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the proposed convergence areas.

## SECTION 7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this JMO shall be done in accordance with the functions of the NTWG, four (4) CWGs, RCI TWGs, and other relevant DA-DAR-DENR-DILG offices under Section 5. Institutional Arrangements and Terms of Reference of this Order.

## SECTION 8. Funding Mechanism



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All expenses relative to the implementation of this Order shall be charged against the concerned offices and agencies, subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Cost-sharing and/or counter parting schemes among donor agencies, other government agencies, and local and international business community/private sector shall be encouraged to support the implementation of this Order.

### **SECTION 9. Issuance of Implementing Advisory**

The DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG may issue subsequent implementing orders and advisories pursuant to this Order.

### **SECTION 10. Separability Clause**

If for any reason, any part of a provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.


### **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause**

All previous NCI-SRD issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

### **SECTION 12. Effectivity**

This Joint Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked.



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
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