



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01

Date: May 31, 2018

**TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS, THE REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE ARMM REGION, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : REVISED JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR ON THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM UNDER THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010"**

**1.0 LEGAL BASES**

Whereas, it is the policy of the State to increase agricultural productivity, enrich the fertility of the soil, reduce pollution and avert destruction of the environment, prevent depletion of natural resources, protect the health of the general public, and save on imported farm inputs,

Whereas, Republic Act No. 10068 (RA 10068), otherwise known as the "An Act Providing for the Development and Promotion of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines and for Other Purposes" or simply "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010" aims to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agricultural in the Philippines. It also seeks to uphold and expand ecologically sound socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible methods of food and fiber production in the country.

Whereas, Section 7 of RA 10068 provides for the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) which shall be the policy-making body that shall provide direction and general guidelines for the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP).

Whereas, Section 14 of RA 10068 recognizes the pivotal role of the Local Government Units (LGUs) as front liners in the implementation and enumerates the roles and responsibilities, such as, but not limited to the creation of local technical committees, and issuance of ordinances and/or resolutions approving and adopting organic agriculture program in their locality;

Whereas, Section 24.4 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 10068 encourages the LGUs to provide incentives to organic input production through the reduction of local taxes, fees, and charges imposed or exemption on business taxes;

Whereas, Rule 24.5 of the IRR of RA 10068 mandates the LGUs, together with the government financing institutes (GFIs), to put up and provide guarantee funds for small organic farmers, artisanal fisherfolks and indigenous people;

Whereas, the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No 02, Series of 2013 was issued stipulating the roles and responsibilities of the LGUs in the implementation of the NOAP;

Whereas, the NOAB deemed it necessary to revise the said JMC to address the needs of the stakeholders and to complement the current initiatives of the Department of Agriculture, the NOAB, and the National Organic Agriculture Program Coordinating Office.

In view thereof, this Circular is issued to amend the DA-DILG JMC No. 02, Series of 2013.

## **2.0 PURPOSES**

- 2.1 To clarify and reiterate the roles and responsibilities of the LGUs in propagating and developing further and implementing the practice of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines.
- 2.2 To identify the role and responsibilities of the DA and the DILG in providing support to the LGUs for the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, and
- 2.3 To encourage partnerships and alliances among various Government Agencies, Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities of the Philippines, local and international organizations, and grassroots stakeholders in the full adoption and implementation of this Act, and in ensuring that local initiatives are consistent with national organic agriculture programs, rules, regulations and policies.



### 3.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY/MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

- 3.1 All provincial governors, city and municipal mayors shall adhere to the provisions of RA 10068 and shall likewise ensure compliance therewith, as well as that of all stakeholders within their respective jurisdictions;
- 3.2 The LGUs shall promulgate appropriate provincial and/or city/municipal ordinance or resolutions that would promote the participatory and bottom-up approach to grassroots organic agricultural programs and projects and subsequently approve or adopt the Provincial, Municipal or City Organic Agriculture Programs as a strategy in addressing concerns on food security, environment, health and wellness and poverty alleviation through their Sangguniang Bayan/ Panlungsod/ Panlalawigan and appropriating funds for the purpose;
- 3.3 The LGUs, desiring to transition their areas of responsibility to organic agriculture with the assistance of DA and the NOAB, shall ensure that the local industries have been adequately informed and consulted, and that a viable plan to ensure supply for vulnerable industries is in place;
- 3.4 Every LGU shall, insofar as practicable form a provincial and municipal/city technical committee, respectively, and which shall, in coordination with and assistance of the DA Regional Field Office (RFOs) through the organic agriculture focal person, implement activities in line with the NOAP.

#### 3.4.1 The Provincial Technical Committee shall be composed of the following:

- |               |   |                                                                                     |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | : | Provincial Governor                                                                 |
| Vice-chairman | : | Provincial Agriculturist                                                            |
| Member        | : | SP Member from the Agriculture Sector (if any)/ SP Member Committee on Agriculture; |
|               |   | Provincial Director DILG                                                            |
|               |   | Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer                                |
|               |   | Schools Division Superintendent                                                     |
|               |   | Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer                                          |
|               |   | Provincial Director-DTI                                                             |
|               |   | Chairman of the Provincial Agricultural and Fisheries Council (PAFC)                |
|               |   | Director, Provincial Science and Technology Centers                                 |
|               |   | Three (3) Representatives from Small Farmers <sup>1</sup>                           |

<sup>1</sup> Small farmer representatives should come from three (3) different organizations with at least three (3) years involvement in Organic Agriculture with proven track record, and accredited with appropriate government agencies (e.g. SEC, DOLE)

One (1) Representative from Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years<sup>2</sup>

One (1) Representative from Agriculture College and Universities<sup>3</sup>

One (1) Representative from the Private Sector or Agribusiness Firm involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years; and

One (1) Representative from Consumers Group involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years

3.4.2 The Municipal/City Technical Committee shall be composed of the following:

Chairman : City/Municipal Mayor  
Vice-chairman : City/Municipal Agriculturist  
Member : SB Member from the Agriculture Sector (if any)/ SB Member Committee on Agriculture;  
Representative from DILG  
City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer  
Schools District Superintendent/Public Schools District Supervisor  
City/Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer  
Representative from DTI  
Chairman of the Municipal Agricultural and Fisheries Council (MAFC)  
Three (3) Representatives from Small Farmers<sup>4</sup>  
One (1) Representative from Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) involved in organic agriculture for at least one (1) year<sup>5</sup>  
One (1) Representative from Agriculture College and Universities<sup>6</sup>  
One (1) Representative from the Private Sector or Agribusiness Firm involved in organic agriculture for at least one (1) year; and  
One (1) Representative from Consumers Group involved in organic agriculture for at least one (1) year

<sup>2</sup> NGO shall be accredited with appropriate government agencies (e.g. SEC, DOLE)

<sup>3</sup> Participating SUCs or Academe must have conducted at least (n) number of Organic Agriculture-related researches

<sup>4</sup> Small farmer representatives should come from three (3) different organizations with at least one (1) year involvement in Organic Agriculture with proven track record, and accredited with appropriate government agencies (e.g. SEC, DOLE)

<sup>5</sup> NGO must be accredited with appropriate government agencies (e.g. SEC, DOLE)

<sup>6</sup> Participating SUCs or Academe must have conducted at least (n) number of Organic Agriculture-related researches



- 3.5 For every LGU Technical Committee (LTC) established, the designated Organic Agriculture Focal Person for the Province and the City/Municipality shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the LTC.
- 3.6 The Provincial, City, and Municipal Agriculturists shall craft each LGU's Organic Agriculture roadmap<sup>7</sup> anchored on the NOAP Document. The roadmap shall be submitted to the LTCs for approval, and finally to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Panglungsod, and Pangbayan, respectively.
- 3.7 The newly organized LTC should be familiarized with the mandates, functions, and complementation of the various institutions involved in organic agriculture. A self-assessment on the LGU's current capacities should identify its internal strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threats that can either facilitate or hamper achievement of its goal towards localized economic development through organic agriculture. This will be a critical input in the development of its local organic agriculture program. This process should carefully look into the following:
  - 3.7.1 Existing LGU programs and service delivery mechanism for organic agriculture;
  - 3.7.2 Technical and administrative capabilities of its agricultural technicians and political leaders from the provincial, municipal and barangay levels;
  - 3.7.3 Units, structure and staffing to coordinate and manage the organic agriculture program;
  - 3.7.4 Regular budget allocation to implement and sustain organic agriculture programs;
  - 3.7.5 Incentives through reduction of local taxes, fees and charges imposed or exemption on business taxes including amount and duration; and
  - 3.7.6 Identification of organic agriculture overlays zones under the agricultural zone based on the approved comprehensive land use plan (CLUP).
- 3.8 Every LGU shall allocate at least 5% of their annual budget to support the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NOAP according to the annual investment plan (AIP).
- 3.9 LGUs shall provide incentives to organic input production through the reduction of local taxes, fees, and charges imposed or exemptions on business taxes.
- 3.10 LGUs, together with government financial institutions (GFIs) shall, insofar as possible, guarantee funds for small organic farmers, MSMEs, artisanal fisherfolks and indigenous peoples.
- 3.11 Every LGU shall develop and implement market development and trade promotion programs for organic agriculture, including but not limited to the following:

<sup>7</sup> Roadmap for at least three (3) years and shall coincide with the term of office of the Local chief executive

- 3.11.1 Develop marketing agenda for organic agriculture;
  - 3.11.2 Establishment, sustainability, accountability, and monitoring of organic trading posts, and stall/outlets;
  - 3.11.3 Development of market information system;
  - 3.11.4 Promotion of organic food, non-food and input products; and
  - 3.11.5 Facilitation of market matching activities.
- 3.12 Every LGU shall support the DA and the NOAB in conducting a sustained and massive national and community-based quad media Information, Education and Communication (IEC) to promote and advocate organic agriculture systems to achieve the goals of RA 10068.
- 3.13 The MLTC shall submit quarterly accomplishment reports to the DA RFOs through the Provincial LTC. Copies of the report shall be provided to the agriculture and fishery councils (AFCs) for information and guidance.

#### 4.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAs)

The DILG and DA shall collaborate in the full implementation of this circular.

##### 4.1 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 4.1.1 The DILG shall assist the DA and the NOAB in implementing the provisions of this Act in all the municipalities, cities, regions and provinces of the Philippines;
- 4.1.2 The DILG shall assist the DA and the local chief executives of LGUs in organizing the provincial /municipal /city Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (LTCOA) which may be composed, among others, of members similar to that of the NOAB Representation of NGOs, academe, private business, and policies on the prevention of air pollution through proper delegation should be given priority. The DILG and DA shall ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the LGUs, NGOs, and academe are consistent with the mandates of the concerned offices (e.g. LGUs shall be responsible on the designation of agricultural extension workers/focal persons); and
- 4.1.3 The DILG shall assist the DA in conducting capacity building programs and advocacy campaigns, *more specifically in the observance of Organic Month every November*, technical assistance and other activities to provide assistance and to work closely with local executives in this endeavor. In the same manner, the NOAB shall call upon the private sector, NGOs, and the academe to provide advice on matters pertaining to organic agriculture and conduct of capacity building initiatives to farmers, producers, extension workers, consumers and other stakeholders in agriculture sector.



## **4.2 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

- 4.2.1 The DA and the DILG shall collaborate with each other, and together with other NGAs and concerned stakeholders, shall form the NOAB as stipulated in Section 6 of RA 10068, which shall act as the policy-making body that will provide direction and general guidelines for the implementation of the NOAP;
- 4.2.2 The DA, through the NOAB, shall formulate policies, plans, projects and programs to develop and promote organic agriculture, production, processing and trade;
- 4.2.3 The DA and the NOAB shall develop guidelines for the identification of organic agriculture overlay zones;
- 4.2.4 The DA and the NOAB through the National Organic Agriculture Program – National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP NPCO) shall seek assistance and maintain coordination with the appropriate department or government agency in ensuring the full implementation and adoption of the provisions stipulated in the IRR of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010;
- 4.2.5 The DA through the NOAP NPCO shall maintain a management information system. Likewise, the NOAP NPCO shall harmonize its data collection with the PSA through establishment of the parameters; and
- 4.2.6 The DA through the NOAP NPCO shall design a monitoring template that shall be used by the LGUs to track the promotion and delivery of support services and implementation of the organic agriculture program.

## **5.0 COOPERATION OF LGU LEAGUES**

- 5.1 DA BAFS and the NOAP NPCO shall enjoin the cooperation of the Leagues of Cities, Municipalities and Provinces in preparing an Organic Agriculture program that will directly benefit the grassroots communities. Furthermore, the DA RFOs, LGUs, other national government agencies (NGAs) that comprised the NOAB, and Organic Agriculture stakeholders shall work closely to operationalize this Act.

## **6.0 REPEALING CLAUSE**

All issuances, circulars, orders and memoranda, part or parts of which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

## 7.0 EFFECTIVITY

This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation and its filing with the National Administrative Register at the University of the Philippines Law Center.

  
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