



JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 01

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND UPDATING OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS

RATIONALE:

As defined by Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8435 or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997", farm-to-market roads (FMRs) are roads linking the agriculture and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points and post-harvest facilities to the market and arterial roads and highways. Specifically, these FMRs are local roads such as (provincial, city, municipal, and barangay roads) including farm roads.

The quality and quantity of these FMRs have a big impact on transport costs for farmers; good roads close to farms lower production costs and raise the prices that farmers get for their products.¹

The Department of Agriculture (DA) together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) undertake the planning and implementation of the Farm-to-Market Road Development Program (FMRDP). Other agencies or inter-agency collaboration programs that plan, fund, and implement roads network that also passes through the agricultural production areas and support the establishment of a national network of FMRs include the Local Government Units (LGUs) for local roads, the reformulated Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – DPWH Covergence Program on Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade (ROLL-IT) 2.0 – Logistics Efficiency and Transport Seamlessness to Enhance Agribusiness Trade (ROLL IT 2.0 – LETS EAT), the Department of Tourism (DOT) – DPWH Covergence Program on Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) for roads leading to tourist sites, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for supplemental funding to local roads improvement, among others.

During the First State of the Nation Address (SONA) of the President last July 25, 2022, His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. directed the national government, in particular, the DA and DPWH to formulate a National Network of FMRs which shall link the production areas to the markets. The President likewise emphasized the need for road development leading to tourist destinations, even in remote areas for the convenience of travelers and tourists around the country to help promote undiscovered tourist spots.

In view of these, there is a need to consolidate and integrate the efforts of concerned agencies for the formulation and implementation of the National Network of FMRs.

¹ World Bank Public Expenditure Review, June 2021, "Mandanas Ruling and Potential Implications for the Farm-to-Market Road Development Program"

SECTION 1. Coverage. This Joint Administrative Order covers the following:

- 1) Establishment and maintenance of FMR common database through the ABEMIS and GeoAgri System;
- 2) Formulation and updating of Farm-to-Market Road Network Plan at the national and local levels (regional, provincial, city, and municipal); and
- 3) Formulation and updating of national and local FMR network investment plans.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms:

- a) *Farm-to-Market Road* refers to roads linking the agriculture and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points and post-harvest facilities to the market and arterial roads and highways.
- b) *FMR Network Plan* refers to a systematic list of proposals detailing the integrated connectivity of FMRs that links identified agri-fishery production areas, processing, and other agriculture-related infrastructure, trading posts, local markets and agri-tourism sites with the local core road network and national highways. The FMR Network Plan is supplementary to the Local Roads Network.
- c) *GeoAgri* (<http://geoagri.da.gov.ph/>) is an in-house web-based system jointly developed by the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering and Caraga State University to consolidate the information on FMR projects. It is envisioned to be the common portal for all Government Agencies and LGUs implementing FMRs which promotes transparency, governance, maximized resource allocation, and minimized duplication and overlapping of projects.
- d) *ABEMIS* (<https://abemis.da.gov.ph/>) is an in-house developed web-based information system that serves as the central data repository and a monitoring tool of all Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery and Infrastructure projects of the DA. This helps accelerate the monitoring of project implementation from the proposal, validation, procurement, construction, and completion to operation.

SECTION 3. Data Handling and Management

The DA through the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) shall spearhead the consolidation of all programs and projects inputted in the National Farm to Market Road Network Plan (FMRNP). The DA-BAFE manages the repository of the data and ensure security and data integrity from its use, storage, or disposal. The DPWH, DILG, DTI, and DOT are liable for any inputs made (or subsequent outcome of decision) based on the provided data, and/or products derived based on data. The DA shall not redistribute nor use the data provided by the partner agencies to any non-partner agency or private sector without written consent from the contributing party, consistent with the Data Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act and their implementing guidelines.

SECTION 4. National and Regional Coordination and Monitoring Committees. To ensure the proper implementation of this Joint Administrative Order, National and Regional Coordination and Monitoring Committees are hereby created composed of the DA as Chairman, the DPWH as Vice-Chairman and Members are the DOT, DTI and DILG.

At the national level, the representative of DA, DPWH, DOT, DTI and DILG duly designated by their respective Secretary shall have a position of least a Bureau Director and involved in the planning and implementation of FMRs. At the regional level, the representative of these agencies shall be the Regional Director or the Division Chief in-charge of FMRs. In the case of DA, the Regional Executive Director or Head of the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) while the DPWH is the Regional Director and/or District Engineers.

The Committee shall ensure harmonization and complementation in the planning and implementation of FMRs at the national and local levels. It shall consolidate, integrate and review FMRs public investments at the national and local levels.

A representative from NEDA shall be invited during the committee meetings to ensure alignment of FMRNP with the approved Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

The BAFE shall serve as Secretariat of the Committee at the national level and DA-RAED at the regional level.

SECTION 5. *Roles and Functions of the Involved Agencies*

a) Department of Agriculture (DA)

The DA through the BAFE shall spearhead the formulation and updating of the National Network of FMRs Master Plan and coordinate and monitor its implementation. Specifically, it shall:

- 1) Facilitate orientation seminars for the members, as well as LGUs and other stakeholders in relation to the plan and the DA-FMRDP Guidelines;
- 2) Identify the FMR proposed sites and conduct, through its Regional Field Office (RFO), field validation and geotagging in accordance with the DA-FMRDP Guidelines;
- 3) Consolidate all data submitted by the various agencies and manage the ABEMIS and GeoAgri System; and
- 4) Share FMRDP-related data and access ABEMIS and GeoAgri System information system with DOT, DTI, DPWH, and DILG.

b) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

The DPWH shall provide and share to the DA relevant data pertaining to national highways, arterial roads and other roads funded and implemented by the DPWH for the DA to include and integrate the same in the National Network of FMR. It shall also provide and manage quality infrastructure facilities and services responsive to the needs of the Filipino people in the pursuit of national development objectives. It shall:

- 1) Through its Regional/District Engineering Offices (ROs/DEOs), depending on the limit of authority set by the DPWH, be responsible for preparing the standard design/specifications, cost estimates (POW and DUPA), work

duration, and other supporting documents for each FMR on the basis of the list submitted by the DA and based on the approved standards of the DA (Philippine Agricultural Engineering Standards) and DPWH.

- 2) Provide the list of DA FMR projects every 5th working day of the month in an open format (e.g., CSV) via email to da.fmrdep@gmail.com with the following data among others:
 - a) Status (Ongoing, Completed, Terminated, Not-yet Started).
 - b) Percent (%) accomplished.
- 3) Furnish the DA an inventory of national roads per projects funded and implemented by it for consolidation to the ABEMIS or GeoAgri System every end of the quarter.

c) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

The DILG is responsible in ensuring the full support and participation of the LGUs in the formulation and updating of local FMR Network plan and its implementation at the provincial, city, municipal and barangay levels. It shall:

- 1) Ensure and monitor the LGU's compliance with their roles and responsibilities mandated by RA No. 8435 and the Local Government Code with regards to the construction, repair, rehabilitation and maintenance of provincial, city, municipal and barangay roads within the agricultural production areas;
- 2) Fully support the development and updating of FMR Network Plans as a component of the DILG's Local Roads Network Development Plans;
- 3) Include LGU's support on FMRDP as one of the criteria in the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG);
- 4) DILG, through its Regional Offices, be responsible for updating the road conditions of local roads;
- 5) Provide the updates in the ABEMIS or GeoAgri System every end of the semester and the road condition map (local roads consisting of the provincial, municipal, city, and barangay);

Department of Tourism (DOT)

With the existing convergence program with DPWH between the DOT and DPWH called the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) funded by the latter, the DOT shall provide the DA and the DPWH with an updated list of tourism development areas, destinations, and DOT-accredited establishments consistent with the updated National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP). In relation, the DOT, DPWH and DA shall ensure that no road project duplication occurs under TRIP and FMRDP.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

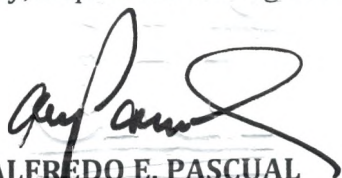
The DTI is responsible for assisting DA in the scanning and inventory of establishments classified under various definitions of "markets". DTI shall also coordinate the activities and projects of the ROLL IT Program, and the ROLL IT 2.0-LETS EAT Programs as they relate to the National FMRNP with the FMR National Coordinating and Monitoring Committee, and update the ABEMIS and GeoAgri System every end of the semester. The DTI, the DPWH, and the DA shall ensure that there shall be no duplication of road projects under the ROLL IT Program, ROLL IT 2.0- LETS EAT Program, and FMRDP.

SECTION 6. Funding. The funding necessary for the implementation of this JAO shall be included in the annual planning and budgeting proposals under the GAA by the DA, DOT, DILG, DPWH, and DTI.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. This Joint Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.


APPROVED this 16th day of February 2023.

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