



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 07

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BACKYARD MELIPONIARY (*Tetranogula biroï*) FOR THE BAI NUPAP PROJECTS

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP) aims to make food abundant in urban and peri-urban areas by supporting the establishment of community gardens and farms while increasing awareness on human health through nutrition and inspiring citizens to contribute to innovative, economic, and environmentally sustainable food systems towards the uplifting of Filipino communities. The NUPAP through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) will be establishing various livestock and poultry farms tailor-fitted to urban or peri-urban environmental conditions.

The native stingless bees (*Tetragonula biroï*) have been around in the Philippines for quite some time and have been a reasonable source of alternative income for hobbyists and small-scale beekeepers. Aside from its honey, stingless bees are known as great pollinators, hence their integration into crop production specifically to those venturing to organic agriculture.

Minimum supervision and management interventions are needed to maintain the stingless bee colonies or meliponiarries. They could survive, thrive, and propagate as long as sources of food i.e. pollen and nectar are present. These make the stingless bees suitable as an addition to crop farming in peri-urban settings. Moreover, it provides additional income to the farmer with only minimal inputs.

II. OBJECTIVES

The project intends to establish and sustain meliponiarries in peri-urban areas by providing starter modules (colonies, hive boxes, and technical assistance) for the women and men beneficiaries. Furthermore, it aims to promote native stingless bees as a source of food and livelihood.

III. PROJECT IMPLEMENTER /PARTNER

The BAI shall spearhead the implementation of this project, with the Department of Agriculture- Regional Field Office (DA-RFO), Local Government Units (LGUs), and expert institutions as major partners. The BAI shall: (1) provide technical assistance, (2) lead in the selection and evaluation of the recipients, (3) distribute modules, and (4) monitor and evaluate the project. The DA-RFOs and/or LGUs shall assist in the screening and selection of recipients, and the monitoring and evaluation of the projects. The expert institution/s shall assist the BAI in the finalization of the operational manual, site assessment, and provision of technical assistance to the beneficiaries.

IV. FUNDING

The source of funds for the project shall be through the General Appropriations of the NUPAP following the disbursement rules set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and guided by the government rules and regulations.

V. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The recipients must be compliant with the following requirements:

1. Have an existing urban agriculture garden of at least 200 square meters;
2. Submitted a Letter of Intent addressed to the Director of the BAI; and
3. Must belong to farmer groups or households or institutions to be clustered for monitoring and biosecurity purposes.

VI. MECHANICS OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. The DA-RFO and/or LGU shall initially identify prospects and eligible beneficiaries for NUPAP and endorse them to the BAI.
2. The selection, screening, and validation of the beneficiaries shall be done by the Technical Working Group (TWG) created and organized by BAI to determine the qualification of recipients.
3. The BAI shall partner with expert institution/s in the conduct of area assessment to ensure that the location is suitable for sustainable beekeeping.
4. The BAI shall spearhead the preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the selected beneficiary, BAI, and LGU prior to the distribution of modules.
5. The BAI shall provide technical assistance to prepare the beneficiaries prior to their receipt of modules.
6. The BAI shall further provide Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to the beneficiaries.
7. The BAI will distribute five nucs/colonies of stingless bees with appropriate hive boxes for each beneficiary.

VII. PROJECT COORDINATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

1. The BAI shall supervise the implementation of the project.
2. The BAI shall take the lead in the regular monitoring and evaluation of the project. On-site monitoring shall be done at least quarterly.
3. The DA-RFOs shall assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
4. The recipient shall submit a production report every second week of the month to BAI.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall supersede all other issuances that are inconsistent herewith.

Done this 6th of February 2023.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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