

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

Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 30 Series of 2023

SUBJECT:

UNIFIED GUIDELINES FOR THE RCEF AND NRP CERTIFIED INBRED SEED

DISTRIBUTION

I. RATIONALE

To support the food security agenda of the President and DA-Secretary Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. under the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, and contribute in making rice available and affordable to Filipino consumers while improving the productivity and income of rice farmers, the DA-PhilRice is hereby expanding the coverage of the RCEF Seed Program.

Made possible through the combined funds from the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (Php 3 billion) and the National Rice Program (Php 700 million), the expanded certified inbred seed distribution aims to complement and supplement the hybrid seed distribution project of the Department of Agriculture.

The DA-PhilRice shall lead the integrated implementation of the RCEF Seed Program and the certified inbred seed distribution project of the National Rice Program (NRP) in coordination with the DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFO) and provincial and city/municipal local government units (P/C/MLGU).

The following guidelines are hereby promulgated to unify and streamline the processes relevant to seed-related services of the abovementioned interventions for better operational efficiency, and strengthened collaboration of implementing agencies and partners.

II. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

a. Starting 2023 Wet Season (WS), the RCEF Seed Program shall expand its certified inbred seed distribution coverage to 77 rice-producing provinces. These include rice farmers in: (i) 42 provinces, which are the primary service areas of the Program since the 2021 WS; (ii) 15 provinces previously under the RCEF Seed Program from the 2020 Dry Season (DS) to 2021 DS; and (iii) 20 additional provinces (*Annex A*). The inclusion of provinces outside the Program's primary service areas is subject to the availability of funds.

b. Provision of certified inbred seed support shall focus on irrigated and favorable rainfed areas preferably with clustered farmers. Rice producing cities/municipalities with low to medium average yield (e.g., less than 5.0 ton/ha) shall be prioritized though the program can also cater to high-yielding areas as necessary or when availability of hybrid seed is limited.

As far as practicable, certified inbred seed distribution shall be concentrated during risky planting season (i.e., wet and very wet season) and will be supplementary during dry season to support intensified hybrid rice production when weather is more favorable.

c. The DA-PhilRice RCEF-Program Management Office (RCEF-PMO) and Branch RCEF Units shall conduct social mobilization activities with representatives from DA-RFO, and P/C/MLGU to discuss delivery and distribution guidelines, general roles of stakeholders, provincial and city/municipal inbred seed and variety allocation, and delivery and planting schedules.

III. VARIETY SELECTION

- a. Only rice varieties released and approved by the National Seed Industry Council for commercial propagation in the Philippines are eligible under the program.
- b. The DA-PhilRice in coordination with the Bureau of Plant Industry National Seed Quality Control Services (BPI-NSQCS), NRP, and DA-RFO shall conduct stakeholder consultation to determine candidate rice varieties for distribution under the program based on yield performance in the area, resistance to insect pests and diseases, good eating quality, and market acceptability. The selection of inbred variety must consider data from technology demonstrations, farm survey, and participatory variety selection trials.
- c. The DA-RFO shall endorse to DA-PhilRice their selected national (2-3) and regional (2-3) rice variety recommendations along with percentage allocation. This shall be reviewed every two seasons.
- d. Clustered farmers can pre-order two specific preferred varieties among the predetermined ones for the region (national and regional recommendations) 6-7 months before the cropping season by filling up the attached form (Annex B. Ordering Form). The form shall be submitted by the clustered farmers to the concerned DA RFO, and the latter shall endorse to DA-PhilRice.

Cropping Season	Month of Advance Ordering	
Dry Season	March-April	
(October to March planting)		
Wet Season	October-November	
(April to September planting)		



IV. SEED QUALITY AND PACKAGING

- a. The certified inbred seeds shall satisfy the prescribed quality standard set by the BPI-NSQCS as evidenced by the blue seed tag in the bag and the Result of Laboratory Analysis (RLA).
- b. Certified inbred seeds shall be packaged at 20 kg/bag using the DA-PhilRice-approved packaging material, and design of sacks.
- c. DA-PhilRice reserves the right to reject seed deliveries that are not compliant to standard (e.g., underweight, no blue seed tag or RLA, or with sample totally different from those submitted to the BPI-NSQCS for analysis).

V. FARMER'S ELIGIBILITY

- a. Only FFRS-registered rice farmers cultivating farmlands in the target provinces will be eligible to receive free certified inbred seeds from the Program. The list of FFRSregistered farmers shall be uploaded to the Rice Seed Monitoring System (RSMS).
- b. To maximize the area planted to certified inbred seeds, only farmers who are cultivating at least 1000 square meters (m²) or more (as declared in the RSBSA) are eligible to receive certified inbred seeds. Farmers cultivating farms between 0.3 to 2.0 ha shall be prioritized particularly when seed supply is limited. However, to serve more farmers
 - (1) Those who are cultivating farms larger than 5.0 ha are only allowed to receive equivalent certified inbred seed support for up to 5.0 ha for non-clustered areas.
 - (2) Farmers who are cultivating more than 5 ha within the clusters are allowed to receive an equivalent support following a consistent 1 bag for every 0.5ha increase in area.
- c. To ensure the use of a uniform list of potential farmer-beneficiaries in the RSMS throughout any given season, a cutoff for updating the data is set as follows:

Farmers' List to be Used For	Cutoff Period for Updating the Farmers' List at the Regional Level and Uploading to the FFRS	DA-ICTS Submission of FFRS List to PhilRice for Uploading to the RSMS
Dry Season	June 30	2nd week of July
Wet Season	December 31	2nd week of January

Rice farmers who have filled-out the RSBSA form but are not yet encoded in the FFRS before the specified cutoff period are not eligible to avail of the seed benefits in the immediate distribution period. However, they may become eligible in the succeeding

distribution, provided that their information will be encoded within the next updating cycle¹.

Further, any updates on farmer's information (e.g., planting area) that are encoded beyond the cutoff period will only take effect on the succeeding season.

In case of verified² typographical error/s in the name or rice area indicated in the FFRS (e.g., misspelled name; 0.1 ha in the FFRS but 1 ha in the RSBSA enrollment form), the C/MAO may release seed support equivalent to the area indicated in the RSBSA enrollment form, provided that the following documents are presented and turned over during seed distribution:

- (1) Certificate of Correction issued by the C/MAO (Annex C); and
- (2) Photocopy of the RSBSA enrollment form.

To facilitate traceability, the correction must be highlighted in the Farmer Acknowledgement Receipt (FAR) and the C/MAO staff in charge of encoding shall put her/his initials across the row corresponding to the farmer-beneficiary with the verified claim.

To encode the changes in the RSMS, the C/MAO shall collate the validated corrections using the prescribed template and submit it to the RCEF Provincial Coordinator (PC) assigned to them. The PC shall upload the consolidated list of verified corrections through the RSMS dashboard. The RCEF PMO shall forward the consolidated list per region to the respective DA-RFO and DA Information and Communications Technology Service (DA-ICTS) for updating of the FFRS prior to the cutoff date of the next planting season. The PC shall use the consolidated list of corrections for reference in summarizing FAR and in validating distribution data in the RSMS.

VI. SEED ALLOCATION

a. DA-PhilRice, through the RCEF-PMO and Branch RCEF Units, shall closely coordinate with DA-RFOs and P/C/MLGUs in firming-up their respective certified inbred seed allocations.

² Verified claims are those duly authenticated by local agriculture officials and substantiated through the abovementioned supporting documents.



¹ DA-PhilRice is only an end-user of FFRS data. The process of paper based RSBSA registration lies with the local agriculture offices (C/MAOs). Registration forms are then collected and submitted to DA-RFOs for encoding. Once encoded, farmers' data are transmitted by the DA-RFOs to the DA Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS) for consolidation via the FFRS. Finally, DA-PhilRice secures a copy of the consolidated FFRS database for use in its Rice Seed Monitoring System

The allocation shall consider: (i) the planting area officially registered in the RSBSA³ and encoded in the FFRS⁴, (ii) the seasonal planting intention of farmers; and (iii) other seed-related interventions (e.g., presence of hybrid seed from the NRP or LGU own seed distribution programs).

b. Certified inbred seed allocation per farmer should generally follow the 40 kg/ha seeding rate. The following matrix shows the seed allocation per range of farm size:

Farm Size	No. of Bags of Certified Inbred Seeds (20 kg/bag)
0.1 ha to 0.5 ha	1
> 0.5 ha to 1.0 ha	2
> 1.0 ha to 1.5 ha	3
> 1.5 ha to 2.0 ha	4
> 2.0 ha to 2.5 ha	5
> 2.5 ha to 3.0 ha	6
> 3.0 ha to 3.5 ha	7
> 3.5 ha to 4.0 ha	8
> 4.0 ha to 4.5 ha	9
> 4.5 ha to 5.0 ha	10

- c. If a farmer opts to claim a combination of certified inbred and hybrid seeds, the total allowable seed support shall be commensurate to their area or shall not go beyond the equivalent seed support for 5 ha, whichever is lower for non-clustered areas.
- d. Cluster organized by NIA, DAR, and other government agencies can also secure their seed allocation through the local officials of other agencies in coordination with concerned LGUs (e.g., IAs through NIA, ARBs through DAR, etc.)

VII. SEED DISTRIBUTION

a. *Seed Claim Requirements*. Eligible rice farmers shall present any of the following when claiming their allocations: (i) RCEF ID issued by DA-PhilRice, (ii) Interventions

⁴ The RSBSA is the enrollment system of the Department of Agriculture in which eligible farmers and fisherfolk register through their respective City/Municipal Agriculture Offices (C/MAO) and receive an RSBSA Enrollment Stub. The enrollment process mainly involves paper-based registration at the city/municipal level.



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Monitoring Card (DA-IMC) issued by DA, or (iii) any valid ID bearing the name and photo of the claimant. In case none of which is available, a barangay certification may be presented by the farmer to be verified by the C/MAO.

- b. **Authorized Representation.** An authorized representative is allowed to claim seed support on behalf of a farmer who is either sick, senior (age 60 and above), pregnant, with different ability (PWD), deprived of liberty (PDL), or working overseas (OFW) or in other parts of the country. A representative can only claim on behalf of one (1) farmer-beneficiary and should submit/present the following:
 - (1) Authorization letter signed by the FFRS-registered farmer-beneficiary (Annex D);
 - (2) Valid ID of the FFRS-registered farmer-beneficiary (photocopy); and
 - (3) Valid ID of the authorized representative (to be presented only).

If the certified inbred seed support shall be claimed through a Farmer's Cooperative and Association (FCA), a signed board resolution containing the names of the farmer-members shall be submitted along with a copy of the farmer-beneficiaries' ID and valid ID of the authorized representative.

- c. *Special Lanes* for special group of farmer-beneficiaries (e.g., seniors, PWDs, pregnant women) are encouraged to be set up in distribution sites.
- d. *Technical Support*. DA-PhilRice shall provide technical support to the C/MLGUs, as needed. This includes: (i) granting C/MLGU free access to relevant digital tools/applications developed by DA-PhilRice and building their capacity on the use of the said tools; (ii) remote/off-site support to resolve technical concerns such as system/application errors, server slowdown/downtime, and data override; and (iii) other technical support for efficient execution of project activities.
- e. **STRICT use of the Rice Seed Monitoring System (RSMS)**. The RSMS, including its integrated web modules and mobile applications, as applicable, shall be strictly utilized by all implementing units and partners, including C/MLGU and SGC/A partners. For C/MLGUs, the Seed Distribution mobile app will be the core digital tool to be deployed during seed distribution activities.
 - (1) The use of the RSMS, particularly the Seed Distribution app, shall enable DA-RFOs and PhilRice to perform efficient, integrated seed distribution management and monitoring, especially in C/MLGUs with both inbred and hybrid seed allocation.
 - (2) To address potential connectivity concerns associated with the use of digital tools, the Seed Distribution App can be used in offline mode to ensure unhampered data collection. As soon as access to a secure and stable Internet connection is established, C/MLGU data encoders shall sync the encoded data through the Distribution App.
- f. Use of Official Forms. To help C/MLGU partners effectively manage seed stocks and account for farmer-beneficiaries who receive seed support from the Program, C/MLGU



staff shall utilize the official forms during seed distribution. These include the Seed Acknowledgment Receipt (SAR), FAR, Seed Stock Card (SSC), and Seed Inventory Report (SIR). Further, the use of these forms will also ensure compliance with existing government accounting and auditing rules.

- (1) PCs shall provide copies and orient C/MLGU staff on the proper use of these forms.
- (2) Partner C/MLGUs shall ensure the completeness, accuracy, and consistency (across all documents) of the information when accomplishing these forms. PCs shall conduct periodic monitoring and assist C/MLGUs in reviewing these documents. Further, the data in the RSMS should accurately reflect the information in the accomplished forms.
- (3) By the end of the distribution period, the accomplished forms, as reviewed and validated, shall be collected **within two (2) weeks** by the Branch RCEF Unit concerned for transmittal to the RCEF-PMO at PhilRice CES.
- g. Replacement Seeds for Calamity-stricken Farmer-Beneficiaries.
 - (1) Farmer beneficiaries whose rice crops are damaged by climate/weather-related calamities or other disasters may request seed replacement. The C/MLGU shall conduct validation and provide DA-PhilRice with the list of affected farmer-beneficiaries with corresponding rice areas. The RCEF PMO may approve the replacement seeds subject to its availability provided that it will be replanted within the month of peak planting period in the barangay.
 - (2) Seed replacement shall be properly tagged in the RSMS to avoid double-counting of farmer-beneficiaries.
- h. *Inventory Management (Undistributed Seeds)*. By the end of the distribution period, undistributed seeds can either be retrieved by DA-PhilRice or retained at the C/MLGU.
 - (1) In close coordination with the C/MLGU, the PC shall conduct physical count of undistributed bags, review the transactions recorded in the Seed Stock Card, and countercheck with the seed distribution data in the RSMS. Any discrepancies should be traced back and fully reconciled to ensure the accuracy and integrity of distribution and inventory reports.
 - (2) For LGU-retained seed stocks. The PC and the C/MLGU shall jointly accomplish the Seed Inventory Report. The PC shall issue a new Seed Stock Card to the C/MLGU, which indicates the beginning balance for the next planting season. Meanwhile, virtual seed stocks in the RSMS shall be transferred to and tagged under the new/succeeding season.

The DA-PhilRice shall seek assistance from C/MLGU in securing a storage facility within the locality suitable for the temporary safekeeping of seed stocks. Further, DA-PhilRice and the C/MLGU shall cooperate in acquiring



materials necessary for the proper handling and storage of inventory seeds (e.g., pallet, waterproof covering material or lona/trapal, fumigants).

The PC shall conduct regular seed stock monitoring throughout the offseason and account for seed stocks again at the start of the new season.

i. *Customer Satisfaction Survey.* The PC, with assistance from the C/MGU, shall administer a satisfaction survey among seed recipients using the Customer Satisfaction Survey mobile app. DA-PhilRice will grant C/MLGU staff access to the Survey App and capacitate them on the use of the digital tool.

At least 30 respondents per city/municipality will be selected to answer survey questions. More respondents may be selected to generate a sample size commensurate to the population of farmer-beneficiaries in the C/MLGU.

VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

In the event that provisions of this document or any part thereof are declared invalid, the validity of all other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

IX. REPEALING CLAUSE

All relevant issuances that are inconsistent with these guidelines are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

X. EFFECTIVITY

The terms set forth in these supplementary guidelines shall take effect starting 2023 Wet Season seed distribution.

This memo is being issued pursuant to the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated February 8, 2023 defining the delegation of duties and functions as Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development of the DA particularly Sections a, b, c, d e, and f (Annex E)

Done this 24th day of April , 2023.

LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN, Ph.D.

Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development

DA-CO-FOS-MO20230424-0000

Annex A. List Provincial Coverage

REGION	NO. OF	PROVINCE
	PROVINCES	
CAR	6	Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain
		Province
Ilocos	4	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan
Cagayan Valley	4	Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino
Central Luzon	7	Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga,
		Tarlac, Zambales
CALABARZON	5	Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal
MIMAROPA	5	Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro,
		Palawan, Romblon
Bicol	6	Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes,
		Masbate, Sorsogon
Western Visayas	6	Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros
		Occidental
Central Visayas	4	Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor
Eastern Visayas	6	Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Samar
		(Western Samar), Southern Leyte
Zamboanga	3	Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga
Peninsula		Sibugay
Northern	5	Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis
Mindanao		Occidental, Misamis Oriental
Davao	5	Davao De Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao
		Occidental, Davao Oriental
SOCCSKSARGEN	4	North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan
		Kudarat
Caraga	5	Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands,
		Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur
BARMM	2	Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao
TOTAL	77	

Note:

Black – 42 Primary Service Areas Green – 15 Returning Provinces

Blue – 20 Additional Provinces



Annex B. Advance Ordering Form of Inbred Rice Varieties

Advance Ordering Form of Certified Inbred Rice Varieties

umber of farmer-members				
ear: Cropp	ping Season:	_ Wet Season	Dry Seaso	on
Name of Farmer-Member	RSBSA Number	Preferred Inbred Rice Variety	Area to be planted (ha)	Expected sowing date(week/month)
1.				
2.	1			
3.				
4.			_	
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
	TOTAL	Variety Variety	Variety Variety	
Certified by:		Received	d by:	



Annex C. Sample Certificate of Correction

Republika ng Bayan ng Lalawigan ng	
PAGPAPATUNAY SA PAGT SA RICE SEED MON	
Pinatutunayan ko sa pamamagitan nito, na si G.	./Gng./Bb. (unang pangalan /gitna/ apelyido) na nakalista sa Registry System
for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) at nakat	tala sa Farmers and Fisherfolk Registry System ang pangalan /gitna/ apelyido) at may RSBSA bilang na
Ipinagkakaloob ang katunayang ito ngayong (po bilang suporta sa kanyang pagkuha ng bi Agriculture – Philippine Rice Research Institu kanyang RSBSA enrollment form.	inhi alinsunod sa alituntunin ng Department of
	Lagda at Pangalan ng City/Municipal Agriculturist o Agriculture Officer

Repu	olika ng Pilipinas
Bayan ng	
Lalawigan ng_	

PAGPAPATUNAY SA PAGTATAMA NG SUKAT NG LUPANG SAKAHAN SA RICE SEED MONITORING SYSTEM

Pinatutunayan ko sa pamamagitan nito, na	si G./Gng./Bb. (unang pangalan /gitna/ apelyido) na nakalista sa Registry System
(FFRS) at may RSBSA bilang na	nakatala sa Farmers and Fisherfolk Registry System, ay may lupang sakahan na kanyang RSBSA enrollment form, taliwas sa sukat SS.
bilang suporta sa kanyang pagkuha	g (petsa) ika ng <u>(buwan)</u> , (taon) ng binhi alinsunod sa alituntunin ng Department of stitute (DA-PhilRice). Kalakip nito ang kopya ng
	Lagda at Pangalan ng City/Municipal Agriculturist o Agriculture Office



Annex D. Sample Authorization Letter

LIHAM NG AW I URISASYUN SA PAGKUHA NG BINHI
Sa Kinauukulan,
Ako si (unang pangalan/gitna/apelyido)ay nagbibigay pahintulot kay G./Gng./Bb bilang naay nagbibigay pahintulot kay G./Gng./Bb na kuhanin ang dekalidad na binhing palay ng inbred mula sa Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund na nakalaan para sa akin.
Hindi ko personal na makukuha ang binhing ito dahil sa sumusunod (i-tsek ang angkop na sagot):
 [] - ako ay maysakit; [] - ako ay matanda na (edad 60 pataas); [] - ako ay buntis; [] - ako ay person with different ability (PWD); [] - ako ay person deprived of liberty (PDL); [] - ako ay nasa ibang bansa (OFW) o kasalukuyang nasa ibang lugar sa bansa.
Ipinagkakaloob ko ang katunayang ito ngayong (petsa) ikang <u>(buwan)</u> , (taon], (taon], (taon], (taon], bilang suporta sa kanyang pagkuha ng binhi alinsunod sa alituntunin ng Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice). Kalakip nito ang aking RCEI ID/DA-IMS/valid ID.

Lagda at Pangalan ng Magsasaka

Republika ng Pilipinas

Bayan ng ______Lalawigan ng _____

fice of the President of the Philippines Malacañang

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO UNDERSECRETARY LEOCADIO C. SEBASTIAN

Department of Agriculture

CC SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN

Department of Agriculture

SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS UNDERSECRETARY

FOR RICE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

AGRICULTURE

DATE : FEB 08 2023

In the interest of service and pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations, you are hereby delegated with the following duties and functions as **UNDERSECRETARY FOR RICE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT** of the Department of Agriculture (DA), effective immediately:

- Lead in the formulation of operational plans for the development of the rice industry;
- Oversee the implementation of government plans, policies, programs, and projects addressing rice industry development;
- Ensure the implementation of the Rice Industry Roadmap by mobilizing all concerned offices and sectors;
- d. Ensure well-planned, well-coordinated, and integrated interventions in the rice industry that are profitable to farmers and would enable them to be globally competitive;
- e. Develop effective consultations, engagements, and linkages among various stakeholders, local government units, other government offices, the private sector, and allied sectors in the industrialization and modernization of the rice industry;
- f. Provide guidance to and supervision over DA staff whose duties and functions are related to the development of the rice industry, and approve the recruitment and deployment of the necessary staff complement, chargeable against the rice budget of the DA;
- g. Represent the Secretary of the DA on rice matters, such as, but not limited to the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Program Steering Committee, Philippine Rice Research Institute Board of Directors, National Food Authority Council, National Irrigation Administration Board of Trustees, and International Rice Research Institute Board of Trustees;

 h. Provide periodic reports to the President, as concurrent Secretary of the DA, through the Executive Secretary, on the status of the rice industry's development activities.

All agencies, offices, divisions, services, and bureaus, including governmentowned or -controlled corporations, attached to the DA, are hereby directed to provide the necessary support and assistance to the Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development for the effective implementation of programs, projects and activities relative to the promotion and development of the rice industry.

Further, the Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development shall report directly to the President, in his concurrent capacity as DA Secretary, through the Executive Secretary.

For information and appropriate action.

By authority of the President:

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