



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City

April 13, 2023

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 473

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : CREATION OF AN EVALUATION REFERENCE GROUP FOR THE CONDUCT OF MIDTERM EVALUATION OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (RCEF)

The Department is spearheading the conduct of the Midterm Evaluation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). The study aims to evaluate how the program components of RCEF are achieving their respective objectives particularly on improvement of yield, reduction of production cost, and elimination/reduction of postharvest losses to increase farm household income.

In order to facilitate the conduct of the study and in accordance with the Guidelines on Evaluation in the Government as issued by the National Economic Development Authority and Department of Budget and Management, an Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) is hereby created, as follows:

- Chair : Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Regulations
Co-Chair : Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development
- Members : Representatives from the following:
- Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization
 - Philippine Rice Research Institute
 - Agricultural Training Institute
 - Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
 - Development Bank of the Philippines
 - Land Bank of the Philippines
 - Planning and Monitoring Service
 - Agricultural Credit Policy Council
 - Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries – National Banner Programs Committee on Rice (private sector)

The ERG has the following roles and responsibilities:

- 1) Participate in the evaluation by providing data and acting as key informants, as necessary;

- 2) Review the draft evaluation reports submitted by the Evaluation Team particularly in terms of the quality of the application of methodology, correctness of the findings, usefulness of the recommendations, and other aspects; and
- 3) As appropriate, and if identified in the recommendations section, take responsibility for preparing a management response to key issues and recommendations raised in evaluations, and identify key follow-up actions, responsible units for implementation, and target completion dates for these actions.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Division (MED) and RCEF Project Management Office shall act as the secretariat of the ERG. The Central Office-Neutral Evaluation Unit established by Special Order No. 171, series of 2023 shall oversee the implementation of the evaluation study and ensure that this is conducted according to the Guidelines on Evaluation.

The offices identified above shall nominate focal persons (permanent and alternate) who shall perform the roles and responsibilities indicated herein and submit the names as well as contact information to MED, within five (5) days after the issuance of this Special Order.

The ERG in the performance of their roles and responsibilities is authorized to conduct meetings and other related activities and expenses for the conduct of these activities shall be chargeable against the Planning and Monitoring Service-MED funds while travelling expense and per diems are chargeable against ERG members' respective agencies, subject to the existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked in writing. All orders and other issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 24th day of April 2023.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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