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## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 30

Series of 2023

**SUBJECT : GENERAL GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOYBEAN TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION TRIAL FARM**

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### I. Rationale

Soybean (*Glycine max*) is one of the most important crops and grown as source of oil and protein. The country is currently producing 0.35% of the total demand (average of the last five (5) years) where 99.65% were imported as seeds, soybean meal and by-products (PSA, 2021).

Based on the present status, it is necessary to increase local production to meet local demand, ensure food security and to reduce dependence on importation. Farmers should be encouraged to try new and matured technologies that are applicable in their areas to increase their yield and income. Results of technology demonstration trial will guide farmers to choose the appropriate technology(ies) for their farms and ensure compliance with the requirements of the industry.

With the above-stated development and concerns, the DA issued Special Order No. 15, 2021 mandating the National Corn Program to prepare and implement soybean industry plans to contribute in the growth of the poultry and livestock sector as well as in food processing.

### II. Purpose and Scope

This Circular specifies the requirements in the establishment and implementation of technology demonstration trial farm project intended for verifying the suitability of component technology(ies) in specific locations. This guideline also defined the roles and responsibilities of the DA-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) and farmer cooperator registered in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).

### III. Objectives

1. To verify and adopt new or matured component technology(ies) on production and post-production of soybean in specific locations;
2. To assess new/improved soybean varieties developed by research institutions or existing varieties from other regions;
3. To determine the best production management practices, and;
4. To facilitate and determine the adoption rate of new/matured component technology(ies) of soybean production.



#### **IV. Mechanics of Implementation**

The technology demonstration trial shall be implemented in existing/potential production areas and shall adhere to the following:

1. The appropriate component technology(ies) to be tested in the technology demonstration trial farm must be a result of completed studies/researches within, and outside in the region addressing the present problems/issues;
2. The farmer cooperator (FC) must be RSBSA registered and bona fide member of a farmer cooperative/association (FCA);
3. The technology demonstration trial shall be conducted at the farmer's field;
4. Conduct quality and quantity tests on seeds to be distributed including harvested seeds of FC to ensure conformity with the existing and prescribed quality standards;
5. Farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, fuels for irrigation (if applicable), pesticides and biological control agents will be released directly by the DA-RFO to the FC;
6. The FC shall return the same amount of volume of seeds to DA-RFO after harvest. The FC shall gather, store and notify DA-RFO to retrieve the same volume of seeds received;
7. The soybean seed variety distributed by the DA-RFO must not be mixed with other soybean seed varieties to maintain the purity of the seeds.
8. The DA-RFO and FC must be willing to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which shall be signed and notarized prior to the implementation of the project. The DA-RFO shall prepare the MOA. OIC Regional Executive Directors must have authority to perform the functions, duties and responsibilities inherent to the designation including authority to sign and approved contracts procured under R.A.9184 and its IRR and such others as directed through Special Order by the Senior Undersecretary and the Secretary;
9. The DA-RFO and FC shall conduct a field day and present the result of the field trial to the FCAs and participants. The field day must coincide with the maturity and harvest period;
10. Harvest from the technology demonstration trial shall be given to the FC and to be sold to Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) linked buyers, and;
11. In case of crop failure due to natural calamities, the FC is not obliged to return the volume of seeds formerly received from DA-RFO provided proofs were diligently submitted within ten (10) working days. The FC will be assisted in his/her farm rehabilitation under the seed reserve program and/or indemnification claim with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

#### **V. Roles and Responsibilities**

Roles and responsibilities of the different key players are the following:

##### ***Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO)***

1. The DA-RFO Operations Division in complementation with the Research Division and Integrated Laboratory Division shall identify the component technology(ies) to be tested in certain locations in consultation with the Provincial/Municipal/City Local Government Unit (P/M/CLGU) considering the priority needs of farmers;



2. The DA-RFO Regional Soils Laboratory shall conduct soil analysis such as potential of hydrogen (pH), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), potassium (K) and micronutrients free of charge prior to implementation of the project; The DA-RFO Soil Lab shall recommend and monitor soil management measures of FC;
3. The DA-RFO Operations Division shall prepare and implement technology demonstration trial research design in consultation with the DA-RFO Research Division;
4. The DA-RFO designated Field Technician (preferably from Information Technology Unit) shall geotag the technology demonstration trial farm;
5. The DA-RFO shall provide farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, fuels for irrigation (if applicable), pesticides and biological control agents based on the approved annual Work and Financial Plan of the National Corn Program. Fertilizer subsidy shall be based on the result of soil analysis mentioned in Item 2 above;
6. The DA-RFO should determine the soybean seed variety to be distributed;
7. The DA-RFO soybean focal person shall provide technical assistance in the establishment and implementation of the technology demonstration trial which includes monitoring, evaluation, documentation and farmers feed-backing;
8. The DA-RFO soybean focal person shall gather pertinent data based on project proposal approved by the National Corn Program Director;
9. The DA-RFO shall sponsor the holding of a field day which shall be done during maturity and harvest period to present the results of the technology demonstration trial;
10. The DA-RFO, through the Agribusiness Management Assistance Division (AMAD), shall facilitate in linking the FC to potential market/buyers of the produce;
11. The DA-RFO shall coordinate with P/M/CLGU regarding the establishment and implementation of technology demonstration trial farm project in their area of jurisdiction, and;
12. In case of failure due to unforeseen events the DA-RFO will seek assistance from the P/M/CLGU in assessing the damage/value of yield reduction based on the normal cropping year and submit the findings to the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

***Farmer Cooperator (FC)***

1. The FC shall provide land area equivalent to one half (1/2) to five (5) hectares that is accessible to people (especially farmers) and representing major production areas;
2. The FC shall shoulder farm labor expenses and payment of PCIC premium for crop insurance within 10 days after planting;
3. The FC must be willing to work hand in hand with the DA soybean focal person;
4. The FC must retain and not alter or mix with other varieties the seed variety received from DA-RFO during storage, planting, transport and when selling;
5. Protect and will not alter the results of laboratory analysis;
6. Plant the seeds and follow the recommended best practices;
7. The FC must shall allow DA-RFO to conduct field day in his/her farm;
8. The harvest from the technology demonstration trial shall be given to the FC and to be sold to DA-RFO AMAD linked buyers;
9. After harvesting, the FC shall return the same volume and variety of seeds received from DA-RFO, and;



10. The FC shall allow representatives of the DA-RFO to gather data and assess the progress and performance of the technology demonstration trial.

## **VI. Funding**

The DA-RFO's Work and Financial Plan approved by the National Corn Program shall be the source of fund of the project guided by existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations and other relevant statutes.

## **VII. Project Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation**

The DA-RFO shall monitor the progress and performance of the project in coordination with the farmer cooperator. The farmer cooperator shall submit required Requisition Issue Slip (RIS), Client Satisfaction Feedback (CSF), Master List of Adopters (MLA) as may be required by the National Corn Program.

## **VIII. Separability Clause**

In any clause, sentence, or provision of the Memorandum Circular shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

## **IX. Repealing Clause**

All other previous orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent to this Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed and revoked.

## **X. Supplemental Guidelines**

DA-RFO shall prepare and submit supplemental guidelines addressing flexibility and suitability concerns to the DA Senior Undersecretary. It shall not deviate from the general guidelines. The NCP Central Office shall be given a copy of the approved supplemental guidelines.

## **XI. Effectivity Clause**

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect upon signing and shall remain valid until revoked by subsequent written Circulars.

Done this 20th day of June, 2023.

**DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**  
Senior Undersecretary



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