



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City
+63(2) 8928-8741 to 64
and +63(2) 8273-2474

Memorandum Order

No. 48
Series of 2023

Subject : IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FERTILIZER DONATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR THE CORN FARMERS

I. Rationale

For the past years, corn production has expanded through the use of genetically-modified (GM), hybrid and improved open-pollinated variety (OPV) seeds since the 2000s. However, despite using high-yielding varieties, the majority of the corn areas did not attain the average yield of more than 5 mt/ha. In order to achieve the potential yield of the corn variety, provide the optimum production practices especially the application of fertilizers. The National Corn Program (NCP) distributed fertilizers to selected corn farmers with a limited volume. However, the significant increase in price of fertilizers affected the capacity of the program to sustain the level of fertilizer assistance.

The Government of the People's Republic of China has responded to the Philippines' request for additional aid by donating 20,000 metric tons of fertilizer to the Philippine Government. This was conveyed in an Embassy Note (2022) PG-274 dated 13 September 2022. A memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 02 December 2022 has formally approved the acceptance of the donation, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The Chinese Embassy was informed of the acceptance through an Embassy Note No. 22-4617 dated 06 December 2022. The note also stated that the Department of Agriculture, with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, will closely coordinate with the Chinese Embassy to facilitate the donation.

II. Objectives

To boost corn productivity through the distribution of donated fertilizers from the Chinese government to qualified corn farmer-beneficiaries in selected areas.

III. Scope

The 10,000 bags or 500mt fertilizer donations allocated for corn farmers out of the 20,000 metric tons shipment from the Chinese government shall be distributed to Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON covering 2023 wet season and 2023 - 2024 dry season cropping.

IV. Implementation

A. Release of Shipment

The donated fertilizer shall be received by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority on behalf of the Department once it passes the inspection and is released from the custody of the Bureau of Customs (BOC). Afterward, it shall be delivered to designated drop-off points or warehouses in the following Regions:

| REGION | NUMBER OF BAGS |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Ilocos Region | 3,000 |
| Cagayan Valley Region | 3,000 |
| Central Luzon Region | 2,000 |
| CALABARZON Region | 2,000 |
| TOTAL | 10,000 |

B. Distribution of Fertilizer to Farmers

a. Identification of Beneficiaries

The following are the criteria for the corn farmers to be able to avail of the donated fertilizers:

1. Corn farmers who are registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and encoded in the Farmers' and Fishers' Online-Registry System (FFRS);
2. Corn farmers that are not yet recipients of the Fertilizer Discount Voucher (FDV) and fertilizer from the Corn Production Enhancement Project (CPEP) shall be the qualified beneficiaries of the fertilizer donation, as verified through the Interventions Management Platform (IMP) and Operations Management Information System (OMIS); and
3. Farmers with an existing area planted with corn (seedling to vegetative stage) for the intended cropping season.

b. Fertilizer Distribution

1. A farmer beneficiary can only claim two (2) bags of the donated fertilizer per hectare. Maximum of one (1) hectare shall be covered per farmer beneficiary.
2. The DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs), in close coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU), shall facilitate the distribution of fertilizer to eligible corn farmer-beneficiaries in their area. A schedule of distribution per barangay or per municipality shall be ensured by the DA-RFO with the LGU.

The following documentary requirements shall be secured from the farmer-beneficiary:



- a. Valid government-issued ID; and
- b. Picture of the farmer claiming the fertilizer.

If a farmer-beneficiary does not have a valid government-issued ID, they can submit a certificate issued by the Local Government Unit, such as a barangay certificate. The certificate should include the farmer-beneficiary's photograph, signature or thumb mark, complete name, permanent address, and date of birth.

3. Farmer-beneficiary who will not be able to claim the fertilizer assistance due to geographical or health reasons or any peculiar situations as may be allowed and accepted by the DA-RFO personnel, the farmer-beneficiary may authorize a representative to claim the fertilizer given that the following are presented:
 - a. Authorization Letter;
 - b. Photocopy of farmer beneficiary's valid government-issued ID (Certified true copy); and
 - c. Authorized representative's valid government-issued ID;

For group claiming of farmer beneficiaries that are affiliated with a farmer cooperative/ association (FCA), a duly authorized representative of the FCA may claim the fertilizer assistance on behalf of its members, provided that a Board Resolution has been issued by the FCA authorizing the representative.

A picture of the authorized representative claiming the fertilizer shall also be secured as reference and filing purposes.

4. Upon securing the documents, the fertilizer shall be released to the farmer-beneficiary/authorized representative;
5. The farmer-beneficiary shall acknowledge receipt of the fertilizer by signing the list of FB form (Annex Form 1); and
6. The list of beneficiaries who claimed the fertilizer shall be regularly reported to the DA-Central Office.

V. Roles and Responsibilities of Offices/Units

A. DA-Central Office

1. Provide funds for the facilitation on the release of the fertilizer donation shipment from the Bureau of Customs;



2. Secure from DA-RFOs the list of authorized persons to withdraw fertilizer stocks in the designated first warehouse
3. Undertake the overall coordination of the project for the implementation and submission of regular and terminal reports to the Office of the Secretary;
4. Prepare and facilitate the approval of all necessary documents;
5. Secure the necessary fund for the implementation of the project; and
6. Conduct briefing with DA-RFOs, agencies, and offices involved in the project;
7. Conduct operational monitoring and evaluation of the implementation; and
8. Conduct overall coordination for the preparation of the reports.

B. DA-Regional Field Office

1. Provide to Central Office the list of authorized persons to withdraw fertilizer stocks in the designated first warehouse;
2. Withdraw the fertilizer donation allocated for the region from the identified storage warehouse;
3. Generates an initial list of qualified farmer-beneficiaries for verification of the LGU;
4. Identifies the drop-off points and the volume of fertilizer to be distributed and delivered to farmer beneficiaries;
5. Mobilize its concerned office/unit personnel to coordinate with the LGU and ensure that the following are being carried out:
 - a. Conduct information dissemination to farmers and ensure that the implementing guidelines and other issuances are understood by all partner implementers;
 - b. Prepare a masterlist of farmer-beneficiaries eligible for this Project;
 - c. Validate the standing crops of farmers and generate the certified masterlist for such;
 - d. Mobilize agricultural extension workers to register all their farmers to the RSBSA;
 - e. Coordinate the release of fertilizer under the Project and the timely distribution of fertilizer to farmers;
 - f. Validate and certify the authenticity of all documents presented by the farmer-beneficiaries;
 - g. Coordinate a smooth and orderly distribution of fertilizers to farmer beneficiaries;
 - h. Facilitate the consolidation and submission of liquidation documents; and
 - i. Submit reports periodically.
6. Provide funds and ensure the needed services for logistical support;
7. Facilitate the consolidation and submission of documents for liquidation, and references; and
8. Consolidate and prepare reports for submission to the DA-National Corn Program.



C. Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority

1. Facilitate the acceptance of fertilizer donations on behalf of DA from the port;
2. Secure brokerage, facilitate hauling from ports and secure initial warehousing services for fertilizer donations;
3. Facilitate the turn-over of the fertilizer donation to DA-RFOs;
4. Spearheads the inspection, sampling and analysis of the fertilizers;
5. Provides technical assistance and other incidental data to the DA-RFOs; and
6. Monitor the distribution of the fertilizer donation in coordination with DA

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

The reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of the facilitation and implementation of this Project shall be led by the DA-Field Programs Coordination and Monitoring Division (DA-FPCMD) in coordination with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA). They shall conduct spot-checking and employ other data collection methods to verify reports received from the DA-Regional Field Offices and others raised by the DA Management.

Reports shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, complete with observations and/or recommendations.

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES

The DA RFOs are hereby authorized to formulate supplemental guidelines to address peculiar situations per region. The supplemental guidelines shall in no case be contrary to nor inconsistent with the provisions of these main Guidelines and shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary prior to its issuance.

This Memorandum Order may be reviewed, amended or supplemented as the need arises and only through a written instrument duly executed and signed by the Secretary.

VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any clause, sentence, or provision of the Memorandum Order 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 with or contrary to this Order are hereby repealed and revoked.



X. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Order shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall be valid unless revoked and superseded by other issuances.

Done this 18th day of July, 2023.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



DA-CO-FOS-MM20230713-00960

ANNEX A

LIST OF CORN FARMER BENEFICIARY OF UREA FERTILIZER DONATION FROM PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

REGION: _____

PROVINCE: _____

CITY/ MUNICIPALITY: _____

BARANGAY: _____

| NO. | RSBSA NUMBER | NAME OF FARMER | | | ADDRESS | FARM LOCATION | FARM AREA (ha) | UREA RECEIVED (No. of bag, kg) | SIGNATURE |
|-----|--------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | | LAST NAME + SUFFIX | FIRST NAME | MIDDLE INITIAL | | | | | |
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Prepared and Submitted by:

Certified Correct:

Agricultural Extension Worker

Municipal/City Agriculturist

