



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Memorandum Order

No.: 08

Series of 2024

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUT SUPPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 9.d OF THE FY 2024 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

1. RATIONALE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA) Special Provision indicated the following items in support of the National Rice Program implementation of programs and activities:

1.1 Section 9.d

The amount of Twenty Two Billion Nine Hundred Three Million One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Pesos (P22,903,142,000) shall be used for the provision of financial assistance intended for hybrid seeds, inorganic fertilizer,- biofertilizer, ameliorants and use of drone technology in agriculture through discount vouchers and/or Interventions Monitoring Card (IMC) to RSBSA-registered rice farmers in clustered farms, except in (i) places where merchants or suppliers are not available to serve the farmers conveniently; and (ii) cases where it is not practical or applicable, as determined by the secretary of agriculture.

For financial assistance for hybrid seeds, seed companies with established local seed production shall be given priority following the stipulated rules and provisions under DA A.O. No. 9, s. of 2021 or the Local Hybrid Rice Seed Production Policy.

Implementation of the program shall be subject to the guidelines issued by the DA.

2. SCOPE AND MODALITIES

This Memorandum Order shall cover the implementation of FY 2024 GAA funds, specifically the allocation for hybrid rice seeds, organic fertilizers, and biological fertilizers.

Following the Special Provision stated under the 2024 GAA, the DA shall implement either through a (1) printed voucher, (2) Interventions Monitoring Cards (IMCs) or (3) regular procurement modalities.

2.1. Printed Voucher Modality

This refers to a printed one-time use voucher distributed to farmer-beneficiaries for claiming input assistance at DA-accredited merchants, with a value depending on the farm area planted and budget allocation under the FY 2024 GAA.

The implementation shall follow the guidelines stipulated in the Memorandum Circular No. 48 and 50, Series of 2023 for the fertilizer and hybrid rice seeds, respectively.

2.2. Interventions Monitoring Cards (IMCs)

These cards will serve as electronic wallets to be used by farmer-beneficiaries to claim input assistance at DA-accredited merchants.

The implementation shall follow the guidelines stipulated in the Memorandum Circular No. 48 and 50, Series of 2023 for the fertilizer and hybrid rice seeds, respectively.

2.3. Procurement Modality

This modality shall adhere to the rules and regulations stipulated under the Republic Act No. 9184 or the Procurement Law.

This may only be undertaken if the circumstances fall under the exemptions stipulated in the Section 9.d of the Special Provision of the FY 2024 GAA, ***“(i) places where merchants or suppliers are not available to serve the farmers conveniently, and (ii) cases where it is not practical or applicable”.***

As such, the concerned Regional Executive Director shall submit a signed report with facts and supporting evidence indicating that areas within their jurisdiction fall under the exemptions stated above.

These documents must be submitted to the Office of the Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development, for endorsement to and approval of the Secretary.



Upon approval, the concerned DA-RFO shall be implementing the distribution, following the stipulations below:

2.3.1. Selection of Farmer-Beneficiaries

Only farmers that are registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and encoded in the RSBSA Profiling Platform (RSBSAPP) shall be eligible to receive this support.

RSBSA-registered rice farmers in clustered areas are eligible to receive seed support up to ten (10) hectares while farmers in non-clustered areas may receive up to five (5) hectares only.

2.3.2. Selection of Fertilizers

Only biological fertilizers registered under the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) shall be procured under this Program. For organic fertilizers, these must be registered under the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).

2.3.3. Varietal Selection for Hybrid Rice Seeds

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the National Rice Program (NRP) shall recommend the National Seed Industry Council (NSIC)-registered rice varieties to be procured, distributed, and utilized for this project.

The following are the criteria for the selection of varieties:

- 2.3.3.1.** Hybrid seed varieties must have undergone field trials (technology demonstration) and produced a yield of at least 5mt/ha or at least 1mt/ha higher than inbred seeds. Yield data from other related studies can be used as basis for the procurement of seeds;
- 2.3.3.2.** Locally-produced hybrid seeds shall be prioritized in the procurement and distribution of seeds;
- 2.3.3.3.** A bag of 15 kilograms to 18 kilograms per hectare shall be procured and distributed to farmer-beneficiaries. Packaging of smaller bags of 3 kilograms, 5 kilograms, and 6 kilograms shall be made available; and
- 2.3.3.4.** The seeds to be procured and distributed must have at least 85% germination rate.



2.3.4. Distribution

Distribution shall be spearheaded by DA-RFOs in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs).

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

DA-RFO to undertake the gathering of the necessary data (distribution, planting report, etc.) in coordination with the Municipal/City Agriculturist, Provincial Agriculturist, and assigned Local Farmer Technician (LFT).

Timely reports shall be submitted via the Operations Management Information System (OMIS) and shall be validated by the Field Programs Coordination and Monitoring Division (FPCMD).

Narrative reports on the statuses and bottlenecks, complete with observations and/or recommendations shall be submitted by the FPCMD to the Office of the Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development, for endorsement to the Office of the Secretary.

4. 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.

5. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

This Memorandum Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in force for the duration of the implementation of 2024 GAA funds unless revoked in writing.

Done this 5th day of February, 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR.
Secretary

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