



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SPECIAL ORDER

No. 703

Series of 2024

**SUBJECT : OPERATIONALIZING THE CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE OFFICE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE
MANAGEMENT OF CLIMATE ACTION**

In exigency of service and in relation to DA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 04 s. 2020, the mainstreaming, integrating and implementing of climate-related policies, plans, projects, and activities in our Department shall be operationalized as a strategic approach to strengthen our climate resilience efforts, manage the risk of climate-related disasters, and contribute to the stability of food supply and prices.

Operationalization of CRAO

A Climate Resilient Agriculture Steering Committee shall be constituted to provide strategic direction and oversee in mobilizing the DA resources and capacities in the implementation of functions and responsibilities assigned to the Department under Republic Act (RA) No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act, RA No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, the National Climate Change Action Plan, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the National Adaptation Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its Implementation Plan under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

The CRA Steering Committee shall be composed of the following DA Offices:

- Chairperson** : Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Regulations
- Co-Chairpersons** : Undersecretary for Operations
Undersecretary for Special Concerns and for Official Development Assistance (ODA) - Foreign Aid/Grants
- Members** : Bureau of Agricultural Research
Bureau of Soils and Water Management
Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards
Field Operations Service
Planning and Monitoring Service
Policy Research Service
Project Development Service
Office of the Initiative on Identified Special Concerns
- Secretariat** : Climate Resilient Agriculture Office

The CRA Steering Committee may invite resource persons from other member agencies and/or representatives from other DA operating units during its meetings as deemed necessary.

Specific functions of the CRA Steering Committee shall be discussed on its first meeting for approval of the Secretary.

The CRAO shall be composed of officials and personnel from the following DA Offices:

Director	:	Program Director for Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA)
Technical and Administrative Staff	:	DA permanent personnel from FOS, PMS, and PRS in concurrent capacity of their respective duties and responsibilities
		DA non-permanent personnel detailed to CRAO

In addition to the functions stated in DA MC 04 s. 2020, the Office shall:

1. Strengthen, harmonize and mainstream climate action in all DA operating units, including the application of digital technology in coordination with the Field Programs Operational Planning Division of the Field Operation Service;
2. Conduct monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of sector-wide climate action planning, programming, budgeting, and implementation, and knowledge generation and management, including foresight modeling and green financing in coordination with the Planning and Monitoring Service;
3. Coordinate and harmonize policy-related advocacy activities with the Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries Policy Division of the Policy Research Service;
4. Perform other tasks as instructed by the Secretary.

The CRAO may engage the services of science and technical experts who will form its pool of climate science experts as may be required in the performance of the Office's role and functions, including the conduct of strategic policy and planning studies.

Establishment of a Regional Field Office (RFO) Climate Action Facilitation Focal. Complementing enhanced climate action planning and implementation at the central level, the respective Regional Executive Directors (RED) of the DA shall serve as regional climate focals. To support the REDs in this function, a Regional Climate Action Facilitation Focal (RCAFF) is hereby established as part of the Regional Field Office (RFO). The RCAFF shall serve as CRAO counterpart at the regional level. The proposed structure will standardize currently varying organizational arrangements to plan and implement climate action at the regional level. The funds therefore will be included in the RFO annual budget.

Planning and Budgeting Guide for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Fishery and Annual Performance Report

CRAO, FOS, and the DA Planning and Monitoring Service (PMS) shall jointly prepare an annual science-based "Planning and Budgeting Guide for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Fishery (CRAF)" to be drafted for the CRA Steering Committee and DA Secretary's approval for sector-wide application, anchored on stronger engagement with local government units (LGUs), private sector, academic, and civil society organizations. The CRA Steering Committee shall submit to the DA Secretary an annual CRAF performance report containing, among others, the progress of and recommendations for the mainstreaming of climate action per DA office, based on agreed indicators and targets.



Climate Action Performance Management

To facilitate preparation of the CRAF annual report, all DA offices shall provide to the DA Secretary through CRAO a report on the following key indicators:

- (i) the percent of annual budget allocated to finance agreed climate action;
- (ii) an assessment of the progress and benefits of agreed climate action on communities and/or beneficiaries; and
- (iii) number and percent of plans, programs, projects and/or activities in which agreed climate action is mainstreamed based on the Planning and Budgeting Guide for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Fishery issued by the DA Secretary.

In addition, the RCAFF shall provide to CRAO an annual report on the:

- (i) number and performance of programs, projects, and/or activities in which the AMIA village approach is being adopted; and
- (ii) number and performance of research and livelihood programs, projects, and/or activities in which agreed climate actions are mainstreamed.

Funding

All expenses to be incurred in the performance of duties and functions stated on this Order shall be chargeable against CRAO funds, subject to the availability of funds and the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All agencies and offices within the DA and its regional field offices are hereby enjoined to provide, cooperate with, and extend all the necessary support to CRAO in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

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

Done this 13th day of May 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR.
Secretary



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