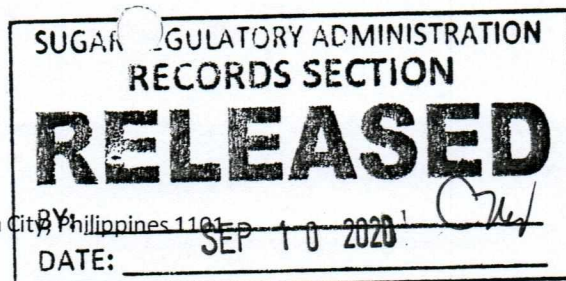




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
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MEMO-PPSPD-2020-SEPT-011

Date: September 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 12

Series of 2020

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE PROJECT "SOIL REJUVENATION AND FERTILIZATION OF SUGARCANE FARMS WITH LOW PRODUCTIVITY"

I. Policy Statement / Rationale

A major challenge of sugarcane farming in the Philippines is low farm productivity. In crop year 2018-2019, the country's average farm productivity was 53 tons cane per hectare while in Thailand, it was 71 tons cane per hectare. One of the major contributors of low farm productivity is improper or low fertilization rate and lack of the necessary soil rejuvenation prior to fertilization.

A major strategy of the SRA, pursuant to the directive of the Sugar Board, of increasing the productivity in sugarcane farming is through the implementation of the project, "Soil Rejuvenation and Fertilization of Sugarcane Farms with Low Farm Productivity" starting year 2020.

Improved agricultural productivity and production efficiency is one of the sub-outcome key sectoral targets of sugarcane under the NAFMIP 2020-2025.

The demographics, gender and gender issues of the members of the project's beneficiaries will be deposited in the SRA database and the project shall be attributed as part of SRA's initiatives on gender and development. An impact assessment shall be undertaken by the Planning, Policy and Special Projects Department (PPSPD) to be able to determine the outcome of the project with respect to soil rejuvenation and fertilization technologies introduced and funded by SRA.

II. Definition of Terms

1. CSO – acronym for Civil Society Organization which refers to sugarcane industry organizations such as MDDCs, associations, cooperatives and foundations;



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"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"

2. MDO – acronym for Mill District Officer which refers to the field or extension personnel of SRA assigned in the sugarcane mill districts;
3. MOA – Memorandum of Agreement signed between SRA and the project beneficiary of the “Soil Rejuvenation and Fertilization of Sugarcane Farms with Low Farm Productivity” project;
4. NAFMIP – the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan, 2020-2025 which is anchored on the new thinking for agriculture and envisions a food secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolks. The strategic thrusts of NAFMIP are based on the eight paradigms of the new thinking for agriculture, namely, modernization, industrialization, export development, farm consolidation, infrastructure development, roadmap development, budget and investments, and legislative support;
5. R, D & E - acronym for Research, Development and Extension which is the mother unit of the MDOs and implementing unit of SRA on the project, “Soil Rejuvenation and Fertilization of Sugarcane Farms with Low Farm Productivity”;
6. SRA – acronym for “Sugar Regulatory Administration” which is created pursuant to E. O. 18, series of 1986, and implementing government entity of the project, “Soil Rejuvenation and Fertilization of Sugarcane Farms with Low Productivity”.

III. Scope and Coverage

The guidelines cover the implementation of the project, “Soil Rejuvenation and Fertilization of Sugarcane Farms with Low Productivity” whose beneficiaries are sugarcane farmers with most recent farm productivity that are less than the mill district average based on the latest official report of R, D & E to the SRA Administrator within the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces, namely: 1) Negros Occidental, 2) Negros Oriental, 3) Iloilo, 4) Capiz, 5) Leyte, 6) Bukidnon, 7) Batangas, 8) Tarlac, 9) Davao Del Sur, and 10) North Cotabato

IV. Objectives

1. *Development:*

- To improve sugarcane farm productivity and sugarcane production through soil rejuvenation and fertilization of the less productive sugarcane farms within the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces.

2. *Immediate:*

- To identify the priority beneficiaries within the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces;



- To provide 50% funding support on soil rejuvenation and fertilization of the less productive sugarcane farms in the target provinces.

V. Fund Sources

The funding of the project may be derived from the following sources:

1. General Appropriations Act (GAA);
2. SRA corporate revenues;
3. Funding from other government agencies;
4. Special purpose fund of the government or other local fund sources; and
5. Foreign funding.

VI. Implementing Guidelines

1. *Eligibility Criteria, Qualifications and Disqualifications*

- a. Sugarcane planters associations / cooperatives / foundations who will provide the 50% counterpart in behalf of their less productive members or sugarcane farmers whose farm productivity is less than the mill district average are eligible as project beneficiaries provided they are accredited with SRA as CSO pursuant to SRA Memorandum Circular No. 8, series of 2017, or any updated SRA policy on CSO accreditation, and the beneficiary farmer are registered with SRA pursuant to SRA Memorandum Circular No. 8, series of 2018 or any updated SRA policy on farmers' registration;
- b. The CSO shall show proof of financial capability to fund the 50% counterpart for soil rejuvenation and fertilization in behalf of their less productive members;
- c. Farms that shall be funded per farmer shall not exceed two (2) hectares of sugarcane farms, up to 20 hectares per CSO and up to 100 hectares per mill district per crop year and must be geotagged by SRA;
- d. The farm site should be an existing sugarcane farm and ideal for sugarcane growing;
- e. Farm productivity shall be lower than the mill district average based on mill district data of the previous crop year as certified by the SRA MDO and approved by the Deputy Administrator for R, D & E.

2. *Documentary Requirements from Project Beneficiaries*

- a. Filled up and duly signed application form with photo specifically designed for the project using a simplified template with sex disaggregated data and

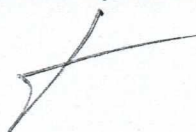


identified gender issues shall be prepared by the R, D & E unit and approved by the Deputy Administrator;

- b. Photocopy of CSO accreditation and SRA registration certificates of their beneficiary sugarcane farmers duly validated by concerned MDO;
- c. Proof of land ownership like photocopy of land title, CLOA, Homestead / Emancipation Patent, tax declaration, etc. which must be stamped as "Authenticated by: (signed by the MDO)" upon presentation of original documents.

3. *Search, Evaluation and Approval of the Beneficiaries*

- a) The SRA MDO shall post an announcement and infographics regarding the project in their mill district offices and the MDDC offices immediately upon approval of the implementing guidelines or issuance of a Memorandum from the SRA Administrator on unutilized funds or fresh fund for the project;
- b) The SRA MDO shall prepare a shortlist and start distributing the application forms of qualified beneficiaries within 30 working days from the posting of the implementing guidelines in the SRA website or from the issuance of a Memorandum from the Administrator for the unutilized or fresh fund for the project.
- c) The MDO shall secure the documentary requirements and geotag their farms within 15 working days from the end of the shortlisting period;
 - The MDO shall evaluate the project beneficiary in the shortlist if he passed the criteria and submitted all requirements within the specified evaluation period;
 - The MDO shall officially submit the list of qualified project beneficiaries and complete documents including geotagged maps to the R, D & E Deputy Administrator through the Chief / OIC of the Agricultural Extension Services Division and R, D & E Manager / OIC within ten (10) working days from the end of the specified evaluation period.
- c. The R, D & E Deputy Administrator shall endorse to the SRA Administrator the final list of qualified project beneficiaries for approval;
- d. The list of project beneficiaries shall be posted in the SRA Mill District Offices and the SRA website;
- e. Succeeding approved funds or unutilized funds for similar projects may follow the same evaluation timelines and procedure.



4. *Fund Releases, Utilization and Liquidation*

- a. A MOA between SRA and the CSO shall be executed prior to commencement of any farm or procurement activity or intervention that will be funded by SRA;
- b. The R, D & E shall design the template of the MOA and ensure that gender and development be always part of the MOA provisions;
- c. All farm sites of qualified beneficiaries shall be implementation ready at the time of MOA signing;
- d. The SRA MDO shall prepare the farm and budget plan which shall form part of the MOA which shall include among others the conduct of soil analysis to determine the liming and organic matter requirement of the cooperator's farm;
- e. The assistance may be through cash transfer or in kind, both shall be subject to standard COA and accounting rules and procedures;
- f. If the assistance will be in "kind", the SRA R, D & E unit shall be responsible for the procurement of soil ameliorants and fertilizer and fund liquidation of any cash advances used for the project.

5. *Monitoring and Evaluation*


- a. The implementation of the project shall be monitored by the SRA MDO and monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Administrator on a quarterly basis. The template of monitoring reports shall be designed by R, D & E together with the PPSPD and approved by the SRA Administrator;
- b. The Office of the Chief Agriculturist shall digitize the contents of the application form and submit to MIS of PPSPD for database purposes including the geotag maps of farm sites;
- c. The SRA MDO shall prepare a terminal report within 30 working days upon the end of the harvesting season using the template prepared by PPSPD which shall be submitted to the SRA Administrator through the Chief Agriculturist, R, D & E Manager and Deputy Administrator for R, D & E;
- d. The Planning, Policy and Special Projects Department (PPSPD) shall assess the performance of the project, its impact to farm productivity and sugarcane production and impact to gender and development after the implementation period through interviews with the beneficiaries and based on the monitoring and terminal reports of R, D & E.



VII. Effectivity

The circular takes effect 15 days after submission to the UP Law Library and shall be posted in the SRA website.

Approved (By the Authority of the Sugar Board):



HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator

Date Approved: _____