



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
TIN 000-784-336

SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
RECORDS SECTION

RELEASED

BY: _____
DATE: AUG 25 2020 *Cub*
City, Philippines 1101

MEMO-PPSPD-2020-AUG-029

Date: August 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 10
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE PROJECT "ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF SUGARCANE SEED FARMS AND PROPAGATION OF HIGH-YIELDING VARIETIES"

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER III	
PLANNING, POLICY & SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT (PPSPD)	
Received by :	<i>Jh</i>
Date :	<i>8/25/20</i>
Time :	<i>1:43 pm</i>
Tracking No. :	<i>2020-08-172-073</i>

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 the quality and variety of sugarcane used as planting material. In Thailand, the sugarcane growers do not use cane tops as planting materials but in the Philippines, cane tops are utilized as planting materials because of the scarcity of sugarcane seed farms as source of good quality and high-yielding sugarcane varieties aside from the high cost of such planting materials.

A major strategy of the SRA, pursuant to the directive of the Sugar Board, in accelerating the development of sugarcane seed farms and distribution of sugarcane high-yielding varieties is through the expansion of high-yielding variety nurseries into seed farms through the implementation of the project, "Accelerated Development of Sugarcane Seed Farms and Propagation of High-Yielding Varieties" 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.

Page 1 of 7



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www.tuv.com
ID: 310200567



Website: <http://www.sra.gov.ph> Email Address: srahead@sra.gov.ph
Tel. No.: (632)929-3633, (632)455-2135, (632)455-3376

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



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 to be able to determine the outcome of the project with respect to the increased adoption of high-yielding sugarcane varieties and improvement of farm productivity through the project and its contribution to gender and development.

II. Definition of Terms

1. CSO – acronym for Civil Society Organization which refers to sugarcane industry organizations such as MDDCs, associations, cooperatives and foundations.
2. MDDC – acronym for Mill District Development Council which refers to a SEC or CDA-registered non-government organization in a sugarcane mill district composed of, among others, representatives from the sugar mill, distillery, planters associations in the mill district, the Philippine Sugar Research Institute (PHILSURIN) and SRA (SIDA-IRR);
3. MDO – acronym for Mill District Officer which refers to the field or extension personnel of SRA assigned in the sugarcane mill districts;
4. MOA – Memorandum of Agreement signed between SRA and the project beneficiary of the "Accelerated Development of Sugarcane Seed Farms and Propagation of High-Yielding Varieties" project;
5. 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;
6. 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, "Accelerated Development of Sugarcane Seed Farms and Propagation of High-Yielding Varieties";
7. SRA – acronym for "Sugar Regulatory Administration" which is created pursuant to E. O. 18, series of 1986, and implementing government entity of

the project, "Accelerated Development of Sugarcane Seed Farms and Propagation of High-Yielding Varieties".

III. Scope and Coverage

The guidelines cover the implementation of the project, "Accelerated Development of Sugarcane Seed Farms and Propagation of High-Yielding Varieties" whose cooperators are sugarcane planters associations / cooperatives / foundations, block farms, MDDCs and individual sugarcane farmers of 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 accelerated development of sugarcane seed farms and propagation of high-yielding varieties for distribution in the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces.

2. *Immediate:*

- To accelerate the development of sugarcane seed farms and propagation of high-yielding varieties in the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces;
- To provide funding support to cooperators for the development of seed farms in the maximum amount of Php85,000 per hectare of seed farm.

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.
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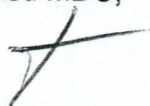
VI. Implementing Guidelines

1. Eligibility Criteria, Qualifications and Disqualifications

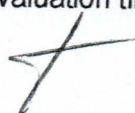
- a. Sugarcane planters associations / cooperatives / foundations, MDDCs, block farms or individual sugarcane farmers are eligible as project cooperators provided they are accredited with SRA pursuant to SRA Memorandum Circular No. 8, series of 2017, or any updated SRA policy on CSO accreditation, or registered with SRA as a sugarcane farmer pursuant to SRA Memorandum Circular No. 8, series of 2018, or SRA accredited block farms;
- b. Farms that shall be funded per project cooperator shall not exceed five (5) hectares of sugarcane seed farms and must be geotagged by SRA;
- c. The seed farm site must have a water supply or can be irrigated.
- d. The seed farm site should be ideal for sugarcane growing and strategically located taking into consideration the accessibility of to prospective takers of cane points as endorsed by the MDO and certified by the Chief Agriculturist. The R, D & E Deputy Administrator shall approve the certification template;
- e. Farm productivity must at least be at par or higher than the mill district average based on mill district data of the previous crop year;
- f. The project cooperator shall have a minimum experience of three (3) years of growing sugarcane.
- g. The cooperator is willing to provide the following data even after the last cutback, to wit: a.) the increase in area planted to the varieties from the nursery if any, b.) the location, name of farm and of planters with their corresponding number of lacsas who availed of the varieties from the nurseries coming from his shares, and c.) the performance of the variety in his farm/s as milled

2. Documentary Requirements from Project Cooperators

- 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 SRA Registration Certificate as a sugarcane farmer duly validated by concerned MDO;



- c. Lease Contract, Deed of Usufruct or 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;
 - d. Photocopy of any government issued identification like driver's license, birth certificate, marriage certificate, passport, voter's ID, postal ID, GSIS / SSS ID, Senior Citizen's ID, Philhealth ID, and Pag-Ibig Fund ID which shall be marked and signed by the MDO as "Authenticated" upon presentation of the original ID / document. All IDs and identification documents should be valid (not expired) at the date of signing the MOA otherwise a Barangay Certification of residency shall be additionally required.
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;
 - b) The SRA MDO shall prepare a shortlist and start distributing the application forms of qualified cooperators within 30 working days from the posting of the implementing guidelines in the SRA website.
 - 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 cooperator in the shortlist if he / she passed the criteria and submitted all requirements within the specified evaluation period;
 - The MDO shall officially submit the list of qualified project cooperators 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 cooperators for approval;
 - d. The list of project cooperators 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.

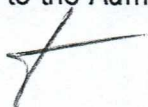


4. *Fund Releases, Utilization and Liquidation*

- a. A MOA between SRA and the project cooperators shall be executed prior to commencement of any farm or procurement activity or intervention that will be funded by SRA;
- b. The MOA must ensure that gender and development be always part of its provisions;
- c. All farm sites of qualified cooperators 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;
- e. The MOA shall specify that the project cooperator shall plant the SRA recommended sugarcane variety and follow the standard sugarcane farming practices specified by SRA with two options to choose in the availment of funding support:
 - ✓ Option 1 - The project cooperator may choose to avail of the 25%-75% sharing scheme of canepoints for the entire crop year (two cutbacks) in favor of the cooperator provided that SRA shall provide the planting materials only;
 - ✓ Option 2 - The project cooperator may choose to avail of the 50%-50% sharing scheme of canepoints for the entire crop year (two cutbacks) provided that SRA shall provide the funding in the maximum amount of Php85,000 per hectare of seed farm.
- f. No cash transfer shall be made to project cooperators. SRA shall procure the necessary farm inputs and manage the fund utilization;
- g. The SRA R, D & E unit shall be responsible in fund liquidation of any cash advances used for farm operations;
- h. The funded seed farm shall be solely for cutback purposes. If there are no takers within the mill district where the seed farm is located, the canepoints shall be made available to the planters of other mill districts at the discretion of the SRA;

5. *Monitoring and Evaluation*

- a. The implementation of the project shall be monitored by the SRA MDO including the tracking of the takers of the canepoints 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 two cutbacks or harvesting the canes (one crop year) 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 and impact to farm productivity and sugarcane production of the takers of the distributed canepoints and impact to gender and development after the implementation period through interviews with the cooperators and takers of canepoints 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: _____

