

Subject: Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10068 as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, otherwise known as “Amendment to Organic Agriculture Act of 2010” (IRR of Organic Agriculture Act as amended by RA No. 11511)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 28 of Republic Act No. 10068, as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, the member agencies of the National Organic Agriculture Board hereby adopt and promulgate the following Rules and Regulations:

Section 1. *Title* – An Act Amending Republic Act No. 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.

Rule 1.1. This Joint Memorandum Circular shall be known as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10068 as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, otherwise known as “Amendment to Organic Agriculture Act of 2010”, hereinafter referred to as the “IRR of Organic Agriculture Act as amended by RA No. 11511.”

Rule 1.2. The provisions of the amended Republic Act No. 10068 are reproduced herein for reference purposes followed by the corresponding Rules and Regulations of each Section.

Rule 1.3. The RA No. 11511 was published on January 5, 2021 and subsequently took effect on January 21, 2021.

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity and farmers’ incomes, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, encourage the participation of indigenous organic farmers in promoting their sustainable practices, further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, save on imported farm inputs and promote food self-sufficiency. Towards this end, a comprehensive program for the promotion of community-based organic agriculture systems which include, among others, farmer-produced organic soil amendments, bio-control agents and other farm inputs, together with a nation-wide educational and promotional campaign for their use and processing shall be established.

Likewise, a nationwide educational and awareness campaign among consumers on the benefits of consuming organic products to boost local production of organic food and non-food products, as well as the adoption of an organic agricultural system as a viable alternative shall be undertaken.

The State recognizes and supports the central role of the farmers, indigenous people and other stakeholders at the grassroots of this program.

- Rule 2.1. Organic agricultural systems further promote the development of related community-based industries, namely organic agriculture, prime habitat and ecotourism, among others. These communities provide clean, safe, nutritious and sufficient food, water, air and health conducive environments. Organic agriculture enhances food sovereignty and substantially contributes to food security.
- Rule 2.2. Organic agricultural system, in its goal to reduce environmental pollution and ecosystem destruction and, prevent the depletion of natural resources, shall endeavor to promote the low carbon development path and its strategies.
- Rule 2.3. Organic agriculture boosts community resilience to disaster risks and climate change vulnerabilities caused by anthropogenic factors (climatic vulnerabilities and changes induced by human interventions) and naturally induced hazards and contributes to risk reduction.
- Rule 2.4. The State shall likewise recognize the importance of indigenous organic farmers, consumers and other vulnerable stakeholders of the organic farming system at the national and grassroots levels.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) *Organic* refers to the particular farming and processing systems, described in the standards and not in the classical chemical sense. The term “organic” is synonymous in other languages to “biological” or “ecological”. It is also a labeling term that denotes products considered organic based on the Philippine National Standards for organic agriculture.
- (b) *Organic agriculture* includes all agricultural systems that promote the ecologically sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible production of food and fibers. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. It also covers areas such as, but not limited to, soil fertility management, varietal breeding and selection under chemical and pesticide-free conditions, the use of biotechnology and other cultural practices that are consistent with the principles and policies of this Act, and enhance productivity without destroying the soil and harming farmers, consumers and the environment as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM): *Provided*, That the biotechnology herein referred to shall not include genetically modified organisms or GMOs.
- (c) *Organic production system* is a system designed to:
- (1) Enhance biological diversity within the whole system;
 - (2) Increase soil biological activity;

- (3) Maintain long-term soil fertility;
 - (4) Recycle wastes of plant and animal origin in order to return nutrients to the land, thus minimizing the use of nonrenewable resources;
 - (5) Rely on renewable resources in locally organized agricultural systems;
 - (6) Promote the healthy use of soil, water and air as well as minimize all forms of pollution thereto that may result from agricultural practices;
 - (7) Develop and promote the use of biotechnology in agriculture;
 - (8) Handle agricultural products with emphasis on careful processing methods in order to maintain the organic integrity and vital qualities of the product at all stages; and
 - (9) Becomes established on any existing farm through a period of conversion, the appropriate length of which is determined by site-specific factors such as the history of the land, and the type of crops and livestock to be produced.
- (d) *Conversion period* refers to the time between the start of organic management and the certification of crops, animal husbandry or aquaculture products as organic.
 - (e) *Biodegradable wastes* refer to organic matter for compost/organic fertilizer for the organic cultivation, farming of food crops and include discards segregated farm non-biodegradable wastes coming from the kitchen/household (leftovers, vegetables and fruit peelings and trims, fish/fowl cleanings, seeds, bones, soft paper used as food wrap and the like), yard or garden (leaves, grasses, weeds and twigs), market (wilted, decayed or rotten vegetables and fruits, fish/fowl cleanings, bones) and farm wastes (grass clippings, dead or decayed plants, leaves, fruits, vegetables, branches, twigs and the like).
 - (f) *Ecologically sound* refers to a state, quality or condition of a product, practice, system, development mode, culture, environment and the like, in accord with the 1987 Philippine Constitution, and as expounded in the above definition of organic agriculture.
 - (g) *Commercialization* is a process of introducing a new agricultural and fishery technology either as product, process or service that has undergone the intensive innovative activities of assessment, promotion and transfer for economic benefit.
 - (h) *Certification* is the procedure by which a government agency or an organic certifying body (OCB) provides written or equivalent assurance that farms, or production and processing systems, conform to organic standards as mandated in this Act.
 - (i) *Accreditation* is the procedure by which a government agency having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an OCB to provide inspection and certification services. This shall be solely and exclusively

exercised by the designated agency or agencies in this Act, pursuant to the mandates herein.

- (j) *First-party certification* is defined as when the certification criteria and rules are set and monitored/enforced by the producer or company itself.
- (k) *Second-party certification* is defined as when the certification criteria and rules are set by buyers or industry organizations.
- (l) *Third-party certification or independent certification* is defined as when a firm requires that its suppliers meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the business relationship to control the compliance of the suppliers.
- (m) *Organic food establishment* refers to an entity, whether local or foreign, that produces fresh or processed organic food.
- (n) *Organic input establishment* refers to an entity, whether local or foreign that produces inputs acceptable for organic agriculture.
- (o) *Inspection* is the examination of farms, food and non-food products, food control systems, raw materials, processing, distribution and retailing, including in-process and finished product testing, in order to verify that they conform to the requirements for being organic. Inspection includes the examination of the production and processing systems.
- (p) *Organic bio-control agents* refer to organisms and their associated metabolites as well as naturally occurring substances that control pests and diseases. These are classified as botanicals, macrobials, microbials, and semiochemicals.
- (q) *Organic Certifying Body (OCB)* refers to a legal entity accredited by a government agency to perform inspection and certification activities. It is responsible for verifying that a product sold or labeled as “organic” is produced, processed, prepared, or handled according to relevant guidelines.
- (r) *Organic soil amendments* refer to all the products within the scope of the Philippine national standard, i.e. organic fertilizers, compost/soil conditioner, microbial inoculants, and organic plant supplements that are added to the soil to improve its physical properties.
- (s) *Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)* refers to a locally-focused quality assurance system that is developed and practiced by people actually engaged in organic agriculture. It is built on a foundation of trust, social network and knowledge exchange. It is used to certify producers and farmers as actual and active practitioners of organic agriculture.
- (t) *PGS group* refers to a legal association or cooperative of registered farmer members and other stakeholders in a participatory guarantee system.
- (u) *Core PGS group* refers to the basic grouping unit in the PGS.

- (v) *Participatory Organic Certificate* refers to a documentary proof that a core PGS group is compliant with the requirements, standards and norms of organic farming/agriculture. It shall be issued by a government agency or by an authorized OCB, after the conduct of an investigation and certification activity on the application for certification by the core PGS group. It shall have a validity of three (3) years.
- (w) *Small farmer/fisherfolk* refers to those utilizing not more than five (5) hectares of land for the single purpose of, or a combination of the following purposes for, agricultural crop production, including rice and corn, aquaculture, and poultry/livestock raising: *Provided*, that poultry/livestock raising shall not have more than the following:
- Poultry – 1,000 poultry layers or 5,000 broilers
 - Swine/native pigs – 10 sow level or 20 fatteners
 - Cattle – 10 fatteners or 5 breeders
 - Dairy – 10 milking cows
 - Goat, sheep and other small ruminants – 50 heads
 - Other animals permitted to be raised, the limits of which are to be determined by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB).
- (x) *Organic value chain* refers to agriculture-related activities that put farmers, processors, distributors and consumers within a system that produces, processes, transports, markets and distributes organic agricultural products.

Rule 3.1. In addition to the terms and definition provided for by the amended RA No. 10068, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) *Agribusiness firm* refers to various businesses involved in organic food and non-food production, including farming and contract farming, inputs supply, farm machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing, marketing, and retail sales.
- (b) *Alternative Learning System (ALS)* is a parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal educational instruction.
- (c) *Appeal* is the request by applicant, candidate or certified entity for reconsideration of any adverse decision related to its desired certification or accreditation status. Adverse decisions include refusal to accept an application, refusal to proceed with an inspection or audit, changes in certification or accreditation scope, decisions to deny, suspend or revoke certification and any other action that impedes the attainment of certification or accreditation.
- (d) *Biopiracy* refers to the illegal acquisition of indigenous knowledge and biological materials with the goal of capitalizing them or when indigenous materials are used for a profit with little or no compensation or recognition to indigenous peoples.

- (e) *Climate Change* refers to a change in climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period typically decades or longer, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
- (f) *Consumer* refers to persons and families purchasing and receiving goods in order to meet their personal needs.
- (g) *Complaint* is the expression of dissatisfaction, other than appeal, by any individual or organization to accredited OCBs, relating to the activities of that body or a certified entity, where a response is expected.
- (h) *Department* refers to all departments involved in the implementation of the NOAP.
- (i) *Disaster* refers to a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of the following: exposure to hazards, conditions of vulnerability that are present, and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation.
- (j) *Disaster Risk* is the potential disaster losses in lives, health status, livelihood, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified time in the future.
- (k) *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management* is the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster. Prospective disaster risk reduction and management refer to risk reduction and management activities that address and seek to avoid the development of new or increased disaster risks, especially if risk reduction policies are not put in place.
- (l) *Domestic market* refers to the market reach of a PGS guaranteed organic produce and product, wherein the producer may directly link with consumers or indirectly through an intermediary. PGS groups are locally relevant and shall promote food self-sufficiency within the community.

- (m) *Food Safety* refers to the assurance that food will not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use.
- (n) *Food security* refers to a situation/state where all people have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.
- (o) *Food self-sufficiency* means the ability to meet consumption needs, particularly for staple food crops, from own production rather than by buying or importing.
- (p) *Food sovereignty* refers to ownership and control and management of the food supply chain (i.e. from seeds/stocks up to its final products and by-products).
- (q) *Formal Education* refers to the systematic and deliberate process of hierarchically structured and sequential learning corresponding to elementary, secondary, technical-vocational education and training, and higher education.
- (r) *Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)* refer to organisms that possess a novel combination of genetic materials obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- (s) *Indigenous peoples (IP)* refers to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have continuously lived as an organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture, become historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos.
- (t) *Indigenous organic farmers* refer to practitioners of the indigenous organic farming practices regardless of ascription/affiliation/aggrupation to Indigenous Cultural Communities
- (u) *Indigenous organic farming practice* refers to a system of traditional farming methods and techniques without intervention from entities outside their community that are being practiced by the indigenous people.
- (v) *Informal Education* is a lifelong process of learning by which every person acquires and accumulates knowledge, skill, attitudes and insights from daily experiences at home, at work, at play and from life itself.

- (w) *Integrated organic farm* refers to a production system practicing a combination of any two or more scopes defined in the applicable current Philippine National Standards for organic agriculture (crop production, animal production, inputs, beekeeping, special products, processed products, and aquaculture).
- (x) *Labeling* refers to any written, printed or graphic matter that is present on the label, accompanies the food, or is displayed near the food including that for the purpose of promoting its sale or disposal.
- (y) *Livestock* means any domestic and domesticated animal including bovine (buffalo and bison), ovine, porcine, caprine, equine, poultry and bees raised for food or in the production of food. The products of hunting or fishing of wild animals shall not be considered part of this definition. For the purposes of this Act, it shall include aquaculture which refers to fishery operations involving the breeding and farming of fish and other fishery species in fresh, marine and brackish water areas.
- (z) *Low carbon development path* refers to growth that integrates positive impact on the environment, minimizes if not eliminates greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account long term sustainability.
- (aa) *Mislabeled* refers to an act of deliberate and intentional misinterpretation of food and products, including its ingredients and packaging; or false or misleading statements made about a product for economic gain.
- (bb) *Monitoring* refers to activities to verify compliance of organic producers/operators, produce and products with the regulatory requirements of concerned agencies. These activities may also include among others adverse events reporting, product safety update reporting, collection and testing of organic produce and products in the market.
- (cc) *Non-biodegradable wastes* refer to anything that cannot be degraded by biological processes (metals, plastics, glass, etc.).
- (dd) *Non-Formal Education* is any organized systematic educational activity carried outside the framework of the formal system to provide selected types of learning to a segment of the population. This shall cover learning outcomes derived from professional development in the practices of profession which leads to qualifications.
- (ee) *Non-Government Organization (NGO)* refers to any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. It is a legally constituted organization created by a natural or legal person that operates independently from any government. In the cases in which NGOs are funded

totally or partially by governments, the NGO maintains its non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from membership in the organization.

- (ff) *OA* shall refer to Organic Agriculture.
- (gg) *OAA* shall refer to the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.
- (hh) *Official Accreditation* refers to the accreditation provided by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) to qualified OCBs.
- (ii) *Organic Agriculture Areas* refers to certified organic areas which practice a holistic production management system involving the promotion and enhancement of the agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity; these are areas that emphasizes the use of management practices over the use of off-farm inputs; and utilizes cultural, biological, and mechanical methods as opposed to synthetic materials.
- (jj) *Organic inputs* are organic materials necessary for organic agriculture production and processing such as seeds, plant protection and pest management products, compost and fertilizers, feeds, processing aids which are used to comply with the requirements of applicable current Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture (OA).
- (kk) *Organic input producer* refers to an entity, whether local or foreign, that produces inputs compliant with the applicable current PNS for OA.
- (ll) *Organic non-food products* refer to agriculture and fishery products that are not used directly for food consumption such as feeds, fiber, tea bags.
- (mm) *Organic operator* refers to an individual or a business enterprise that is responsible for the production, processing, manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, retail, trade, importation of organic agriculture products meets, and continues to meet, the applicable current PNS for OA and regulatory requirements, on which the certification is based.
- (nn) *Organic agriculture practitioner* refers to stakeholders practicing organic agriculture in accordance with the applicable current PNS for OA.
- (oo) *Organic pre-packaged food* refers to processed food produced according to applicable current PNS for OA, made up in advance in a container, labeled and ready for sale to the consumer, or for catering purposes, or for further processing, or for institutional use only compliant with current regulations issued by the Department of Health - Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA).

- (pp) *Organic Processed food* refers to food compliant with applicable current PNS for OA that have been substantially altered by the application of physical, chemical, or biological processes such as, but not limited to, heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion and a combination of those processes intended to produce food.
- (qq) *Organic processed and pre-packaged food* refers to food compliant with applicable current PNS for OA that have been subjected to, but not limited to, heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion and a combination of those processes intended to produce food, packaged and labeled compliant with the applicable regulations issued by DOH-FDA.
- (rr) *Organic produce* refers to any agricultural produce that is produced according to applicable current PNS for OA or gathered from nature, and/or handled with post-harvest management.
- (ss) *Organic product* refers to a product that has been processed, pre-packaged, and handled in compliance with applicable current PNS for OA.
- (tt) *People's Organization (POs)* are community-based, mass membership organizations, that are either Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), or any government agency empowered by law or policy to register and/or accredit POs and other similar aggrupations, registered or existing but not registered, with a set of by-laws adopted through a membership assembly and duly elected officials. POs are either sectoral or multi-sectoral alliance pursuing a common goal and established to secure benefits for their membership and articulate aims and objectives in the general development discourse.
- (uu) *Private/business sector* refers to a key factor in the realm of the economy where the central social concern and process is the mutually beneficial production and distribution of goods and services to meet the physical needs of human beings. The private sector comprises private corporations, enterprises, individual businesses, among others.
- (vv) *Processing Aid* means any substance or material, not including apparatus or utensils, and not consumed as a food ingredient by itself, intentionally used in the processing of raw materials, foods or its ingredients, to fulfill a certain technological purpose during treatment or processing and which may result in the non-intentional but unavoidable presence of residues or derivatives in the final product.
- (ww) *Registry of Core PGS groups* refers to the list of core PGS groups operating within its area of jurisdiction, accredited by DA-BAFS. This shall include certified

individual farms as core PGS groups and accredited PGS groups.

- (xx) *Retail establishment* refers to an entity principally engaged in the sale of commodities or goods for consumption to the general public; it includes those that are classified as formal and informal establishments including online merchants.
- (yy) *Risk* is the combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences.
- (zz) *Risk reduction* is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including reduced exposures to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.
- (aaa) *Surveillance* refers to a set of activities including office and witness audits, except reassessment, to monitor continued compliance of accredited OCBs with the requirements for accreditation.
- (bbb) *Sustainable practice* refers to a system of agricultural farming methods and techniques that allow farmers and fisherfolks to meet production demand without compromising the natural availability of resources.
- (ccc) *Third-party OCB* refers to an independent legal entity not engaged in organic production accredited by DA-BAFS to perform inspection and certification of organic management systems.
- (ddd) *Vulnerabilities* refer to the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. Vulnerabilities may arise from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors such as poor design and construction of buildings, inadequate protection of assets, lack of public information and awareness, limited official recognition of risks and preparedness measures, and disregard for wise environmental management.
- (eee) *Vulnerable stakeholders* are those that face higher exposure to disaster risk and poverty including, but not limited to, women, youth, children, elderly, differently-abled people, and indigenous/ethnic minorities.

Section 4. *Coverage* – The provisions of this Act shall apply to the development and promotion of organic agriculture and shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Policy formulation on regulation, registration, accreditation, certification and labeling on organic agriculture;

- (b) Research, development and extension of appropriate sustainable environment and gender-friendly organic agriculture;
- (c) Promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic fertilizers, bio-control agents, organic soil amendments and other appropriate farm inputs; and
- (d) Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with the focus on farmers, prioritizing small farmers/fisherfolks and their organization and other stakeholders.

Rule 4.1. The coverage of this Act enumerated herein shall be considered in the development of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) under Section 5 (*National Organic Agricultural Program*).

Section 5. *National Organic Agricultural Program* – There is hereby established a comprehensive organic agricultural program through the promotion and commercialization of organic farming practices, cultivation and adoption of production and processing methods which have already been developed, or to be developed, continuing research and upgrading thereof, the capacity building of farmers and the education of consumers thereon, the extension of assistance to local government units (LGUs), peoples’ organizations (POs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders including individuals and groups who are practicing and promoting these methods as well as those who are willing to do other pertinent activities, and documentation and evaluation of the program.

Rule 5.1. The National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), through the National Organic Agriculture Program - National Program Coordinating Office of the Department of Agriculture (NOAP-NPCO), shall call upon all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, including the LGUs, academe, NGOs, organic small farmers/fisherfolks organizations, and research and development and extension (RDE) institutions, to submit their respective annual and long term OA plans taking into consideration climate change impact and mitigation, with emphasis on adaptation, disaster risk reduction and management, gender-sensitive development, site-specific ecosystem-based for consolidation and integration into a comprehensive NOAP.

Rule 5.2. The NOAP operating units shall support the establishment of organic agriculture hubs, which shall act as a business integrator that will supply the organic inputs, shall provide farm services, as well as the consolidation and the marketing of the produce of organic farmers/fisherfolks in every organic agriculture activity.

Rule 5.3. The NOAB, through the NOAP-NPCO and in collaboration with concerned agencies, shall develop a national communication strategy to increase the awareness of the consumers on the benefits of consuming organic products to boost local

production of organic food and non-food products, as well as the adoption of an organic agricultural system as a viable alternative.

- Rule 5.4. The Bureau of Agricultural Research of the DA (DA-BAR) and in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and NGOs shall support the documentation and promotion of indigenous organic farming practices.
- Rule 5.5. The NOAP-NPCO and other concerned government agencies shall provide technical and financial assistance to LGUs, SUCs, NGOs, and POs in establishing community-based organic agriculture systems.
- Rule 5.6. The Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service of the DA (DA-AMAS) and other concerned agencies, shall develop and undertake a nationwide educational and awareness campaign among consumers on the benefits of consuming organic products to boost local production of organic food.
- Rule 5.7. The Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall develop and institutionalize the promotion of local and international trade fairs, market promotion and matching activities with the active participation of LGUs, NGOs, national government agencies (NGAs), academe, RDE institutions, organic farmer organizations, consumer, business groups and multi-stakeholder (environment and climate change advocates and agrarian reform communities) networks to push organic products in the local and international markets as outlined in the NOAP. Likewise, the consumption of organic products in the country shall be encouraged and promoted.
- Rule 5.8. The NOAP shall be comprehensive, strategic and sustainable, and formulated, taking into consideration the coverage of this Act under Section 4 (*Coverage*), following the principles of bottom-up, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral participatory planning, and monitoring and evaluation system. Due consultation with the stakeholders shall be undertaken for purposes of ownership, legitimacy, transparency and accountability and, following the principles of inclusivity and subsidiarity.
- Rule 5.9. The implementation of the NOAP shall be focused on areas where delivery of support services is not adequately responded to, especially to farmers in marginal farm and coastal lands, in ancestral domains and agrarian reform areas subject to the prioritization criteria to be established by the NOAB. The implementation of small farm holding certification with an Internal Control System shall be intensified in areas where organic farms are contiguous and the farmers are adopting the same farming system.

- Rule 5.10. The NOAP shall provide assistance such as but not limited to equipment, facilities, and scholarships to educational institutions to strengthen the integration of organic agriculture in their curricula.
- Rule 5.11. A separate and distinct line budget item for organic agriculture in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) shall be allocated for the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the NOAP including the operation of the NOAB. All agencies involved in the implementation of the NOAP shall allocate funds in accordance with Section 26 (*Appropriations*) of this Act.
- Rule 5.12. Other NOAB member agencies, concerned departments, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), and LGUs shall allocate funds from their annual budget (GAA, Internal Revenue Allotment, LGU development fund, Economic Development Fund, Official Development Assistance, Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, etc. and private sector investment) in support to the implementation of the NOAP. These agencies shall report to the NOAB on their fund allocation for organic agriculture activities.
- Rule 5.13. The NOAB through its Chairman shall forge Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) on behalf of the LGUs for fund sources for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NOAP.
- Rule 5.14. The NOAB, through the NOAP-NPCO, shall conduct results-based monitoring and evaluation regularly to ensure the expeditious, efficient, and cost-effective implementation of the NOAP.
- Rule 5.15. A NOAP program-benefit monitoring and impact evaluation of key organic programs, plans, and projects shall be undertaken subject to the guidelines that will be developed and adopted by the NOAB.
- Rule 5.16. The NOAB, through the NOAP-NPCO, shall maintain a dedicated website to NOAP. All organic agriculture-related information and databases from the member's departments, agencies, bureaus, research institutions, and LGUs shall be linked to the NOAP website.

Section 6. *National Organic Agricultural Board (NOAB)* – To carry out the policy and the program provided in this Act, there is hereby created a NOAB which shall be the policy-making body and shall provide direction and general guidelines for the implementation of the National Organic Agricultural Program. The NOAB shall be attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The NOAB shall ensure the full participation of POs, NGOs, and the general public through coordination and consultative mechanisms such as, but not limited to, public hearings, meetings and joint projects.

- Rule 6.1. The NOAB shall exercise its powers and functions in accordance with Sections 8 (*Organization of the NOAB*) and 9 (*Powers and Functions of the NOAB*) of this Act.
- Rule 6.2. The DA through the NOAP shall provide a dedicated office for the NOAB and other logistics to facilitate the Board's functions.
- Rule 6.3. The NOAB shall involve the participation of relevant stakeholders to ensure transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

Section 7. *Composition of the NOAB* – The NOAB shall consist of the following members:

- (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized permanent representative, with a rank of Undersecretary, as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, or his duly authorized permanent representative, as Vice Chair;
- (c) The Secretary of Science and Technology or his duly authorized permanent representative;
- (d) The Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, or his/her duly authorized permanent representative;
- (e) The Secretary of Agrarian Reform, or his/her duly authorized permanent representative;
- (f) The Secretary of Trade and Industry, or his/her duly authorized permanent representative;
- (g) The Secretary of Health, or his/her duly authorized permanent representative;
- (h) Three (3) representatives from the small farmers;
- (i) One (1) representative from the NGOs involved in organic agriculture for at least three (3) years;
- (j) One (1) representative from agricultural colleges and universities;
- (k) One (1) representative from the private sector in the organic value chain;
- (l) One (1) representative from the national association of PGS Groups, to be chosen from among and by themselves: *Provided*, That the representative is a small farmer;
- (m) One (1) representative from a national organization of local government units (LGUs) actually engaged in organic agriculture; and
- (n) One (1) qualified representative from the indigenous organic farmers.

The designated aforementioned representatives of the various departments shall be occupying positions not lower than a bureau director level and shall be on a coterminous basis.

The representatives of small farmers and NGOs, and of agricultural colleges and universities, shall be chosen by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Science and Technology, respectively, from among nominees submitted to the agency concerned by their respective national organizations. These representatives must represent their respective organizations at least from the provincial level, actually and actively practicing and promoting organic agriculture practices, be conversant in organic agriculture and be committed to the policies and programs provided under this Act. The three (3) seats given to small farmers shall be chosen from the crops and livestock sectors, which will have two (2) seats and one (1) seat, respectively.

An appointed/elected member of the board can only serve a single term of three (3) years, without reappointment. Should the member fail to complete his/her term, the replacement or successor shall only serve the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 7.1. The DA through the NOAP-NPCO shall formulate the criteria and the guidelines for the selection of the following non-government members of the NOAB: (a) three (3) small farmer representatives, (b) one (1) representative from a national organization of LGUs actually engaged in organic agriculture, (c) one (1) representative from NGO, (d) one (1) representative from a national organization of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups, and (e) one (1) representative from the private sector in the organic value chain. The selection criteria and guidelines for the said representations shall be reviewed and approved by the NOAB.

Rule 7.2. The small farmer representatives are mandated to comprise one (1) seat from the livestock sector and two (2) seats from the crop sector. Provided that the three (3) major islands of the country are still represented. Provided further that the aquaculture sector shall be considered in the livestock sector.

Rule 7.3. The representative from the national organization of LGUs actually engaged in organic agriculture must be: (a) registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for at least five (5) years and with an organizational medium to long term strategic OA development program; (b) must comprise of at least three (3) members legally implemented under the municipal and/or city-wide organic agriculture plan; (c) recognized by the local and international authorities on organic agriculture.

Rule 7.4. The DOST shall formulate the criteria and the guidelines for the selection of the academe representative, subject to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 7.5. The NCIP shall facilitate the nomination of the indigenous organic farmer representative to the NOAB. In the absence of a qualified nominee, the NCIP shall represent the sector to the NOAB.

- Rule 7.6. The list of nominees shall be submitted to the Secretary of the DA and DOST in accordance with the deadline provided. The Secretary of DA shall appoint the members of the Board from small farmers, the national organization of LGUs actually engaged in organic agriculture, NGOs, the national organization of PGS groups, and private sector in the organic value chain, while the representative from the academe (i.e. SUCs and private higher education institutions) shall be appointed by the DOST.
- Rule 7.7. An appointed member of the Board shall serve for a single term of three (3) years and cannot be reappointed for another term. Should a private sector or an academe member of the Board fail to complete his/her term, the concerned Secretary shall appoint the second rank nominee, provided that the nominee met the minimum requirements. Otherwise, the Secretary shall appoint a successor from the same organization which the private sector or academe represents. The successor shall only serve the unexpired portion of the uncompleted term.
- Rule 7.8. The incumbent members of the NOAB shall continue to serve their term provided in this Act. Provided that, positions that are vacant by virtue of this Act shall be accordingly filled and shall also serve the unexpired portion of the incumbent's term.
- Rule 7.9. The concerned government agencies shall designate their permanent representatives and alternate representatives with a rank no less than Director IV. These representatives shall serve on a coterminous basis.

Section 8. *Organization of the NOAB* – Within sixty (60) working days from the effectivity of this Act, the national organizations of small farmers, of NGOs and of agricultural colleges and universities shall submit their respective nominees to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Science and Technology, as the case may be, who shall evaluate the qualifications of the nominees and appoint the most qualified members to the NOAB.

The Chairperson shall call the members of the NOAB, or a majority thereof if not all have been designated, to a meeting to organize themselves and prescribe its rules and procedures for the attainment of the objectives of this Act. A majority of all the members of the NOAB shall constitute a quorum. The NOAB shall meet at least once every quarter after its constitution.

The NOAB shall also determine its budget, including travel expenses, allowances and per diems of its non-government members when attending official NOAB meetings or attending to matters assigned to them subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Rule 8.1. Within sixty (60) working days from the effectivity of this IRR, the national organization of PGS groups, the national organization of LGUs actually engaged in organic agriculture, and indigenous organic farmers shall submit their respective nominees to the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the guidelines approved by the NOAB.

- Rule 8.2. The NOAB shall establish Rules of Procedure (Manual of Operations) in its operations and establishments of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and Task Forces (TFs) including roles and responsibilities to exercise general coordination of its work. The Rules of Procedure of the NOAB shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to TWGs, TFs, and ad hoc committees.
- Rule 8.3. The NOAB shall hold quarterly meetings and special meetings when necessary. The presence of at least nine (9) including the chairperson of the NOAB shall constitute a quorum. In all cases, the presence of the chairperson or his duly authorized official permanent representative shall be required.
- Rule 8.4. Government agencies shall be allowed to send their authorized representatives to the NOAB with a rank not lower than Director IV. However, other representatives not duly appointed by the Secretary shall not be considered to constitute a quorum.
- Rule 8.5. The NOAB shall create its TWGs where the technical concerns on organic agriculture development and promotion will be tackled. Government agencies may designate their technical representatives who are knowledgeable on organic agriculture and other related concerns. The membership in the TWGs and TFs shall be approved by the NOAB.
- Rule 8.6. The NOAB shall be entitled to other allowable emoluments for every meeting actually attended, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations and other relevant statutes.
- Rule 8.7. The Director of the NOAP-NPCO shall serve as the NOAB Secretary and shall keep all records relative to the meetings of the NOAB.

Section 9. *Powers and Functions of the NOAB* – The NOAB shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to develop and promote organic agriculture, production, processing and trade;
- (b) Oversee the successful implementation of the National Organic Agricultural Program;
- (c) Identify sources of financing to expand organic agriculture;
- (d) Monitor and evaluate the performance of programs for appropriate incentives;
- (e) Undertake measures for the international recognition of local certification of organic products;
- (f) Call upon any government agency to carry out and implement programs and projects identified by the NOAB;
- (g) Call upon private sectors, POs and NGOs and the academe to provide advice on matters pertaining to organic agriculture and conduct of capability-building initiatives to farmers, producers, extension

workers, consumers and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector in coordination with the Agricultural Training Institute;

- (h) Submit annual and other periodic reports to the President, Secretary of the DA and Congress of the Philippines through the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM);
- (i) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out effectively the purposes and objectives of this Act; and
- (j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and the continued enhancement, growth or development of organic agriculture.

Rule 9.1. The NOAB and its appropriate TWGs shall continuously review all existing government (NGAs, legislative, and LGUs) issuances, policies, and programs affecting the implementation of the OAA and update recommendations to harmonize its provisions to further strengthen these IRRs consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Rule 9.2. The NOAB shall formulate the guidelines for the implementation of multi-sectoral (LGUs, NGOs, organic small farmers/fisherfolks' organizations, academe, RDE institutions, consumers and business groups) monitoring protocols to track the promotion and delivery of OAA support services and their implementation by the local chief executives (LCEs) at the provincial and municipal/city levels.

Rule 9.3. The NOAB, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall undertake measures for the international recognition of Philippine organic produce and products which include harmonization of the national organic certification schemes.

Rule 9.4. The NOAB shall establish guidelines for the provision of technical and financial assistance to eligible certified and guaranteed organic operators or their farms/associations/cooperatives for international certification in accordance with this Act.

Rule 9.5. The NOAB shall develop guidelines for the provision of assistance to organic agriculture practitioners for the laboratory analyses of produce, inputs and products to ensure and maintain compliance with the applicable current Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture (OA) and other regulatory requirements.

Rule 9.6. The NOAB and its member departments shall ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Act. The member departments shall ensure that other activities relevant to their mandates and jurisdictions in line with the provisions of this Act are acted upon.

Rule 9.7. The NOAB shall coordinate with other concerned government agencies to institutionalize organic agriculture programs at the

local level through the formulation of a framework for a food self-sufficiency program. The framework shall provide the strategic plans of action in eliminating malnutrition and hunger, bringing unity and responsibilities between the community and the LGU, educating the community on the importance of practicing organic farming and sustainable agriculture, and generating food and income from the establishment of backyard organic gardens and community organic farms.

Rule 9.8. Upon approval by the NOAB, the DILG, in coordination with other concerned agencies, shall issue relevant guidelines to LGUs in the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Rule 9.9. The NOAB, through the NOAP-NPCO, in coordination with DA-AMAS and DTI, shall lead the development of an organic agriculture industry profile.

Rule 9.10. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall maintain a database of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations engaged in organic agriculture and formulate a roadmap in accordance with the comprehensive NOAP.

Rule 9.11. The NOAB shall call upon other public Standards Development Organizations to develop standards related to organic produce and products covered by their respective mandates.

Rule 9.12. The NOAB shall collaborate with the DTI to establish mechanisms for notification and reporting of third-party certification bodies or entities conducting conformity assessment activities in the country for organic produce and products intended for export. These certification bodies or entities shall provide relevant information as may be required by the NOAB.

Rule 9.13. The NOAB, in collaboration with concerned agencies, shall craft and harmonize existing rules and regulations on registration of organic produce and products' brand names and business names, including online merchants to include with substantiation for 'organic' labeling/ brand names in accordance with their respective mandates.

Rule 9.14. The NOAB, when necessary, may call upon the cooperation of other government agencies to effectively and efficiently carry out and implement its identified programs and projects.

Section 10. *National Organic Agriculture Program - National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP-NPCO)* – To manage the effective implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program, the Department of Agriculture (DA), Office of the Secretary, shall be strengthened and empowered in terms of establishing a functional office, to be known as the National Organic Agriculture Program – National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP – NPCO). It shall serve as the planning and administrative secretariat of the NOAB, and as the coordinating office of the Program.

- Rule 10.1. The NOAB, as attached to the DA, shall be supported by the NOAP-NPCO in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, particularly in spearheading the implementation of RA No. 10068 as amended by RA No. 11511.
- Rule 10.2. To effectively implement the NOAP, the NOAP-NPCO shall facilitate the adoption of policies, plans, projects, and programs for the development and promotion of organic agriculture at the grassroots level.
- Rule 10.3. The NOAP-NPCO is empowered to determine and create its organizational structure including its plantilla position requirements in order to perform its functions to achieve the objectives of this Act.
- Rule 10.4. At the minimum, the NOAP-NPCO shall be headed by a Director to be appointed by the President. He/she shall be assisted by a deputy director. The NOAP-NPCO shall have at least three (3) divisions, namely the 1. Secretariat and Policy Development Division, 2. Planning and Project Development Support Division, and 3. Advocacy, Coordination, and Administrative Division.
- Rule 10.5. The interim NOAP-NPCO is authorized to submit its proposed plantilla positions to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) within one hundred eighty (180) days upon the adoption of this IRR and prior approval by the NOAB. The DBM shall promptly act within the deadline stipulated under the Code of Conduct of the government employees by the Civil Service Commission.
- Rule 10.6. The NOAP-NPCO plantilla positions shall be completed within one (1) year from the approval of the said plantilla positions by the DBM.
- Rule 10.7. The DA Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) shall be strengthened with the creation of the NOAP Regional Program Coordinating Office (NOAP-RPCOs), consisting of at least five (5) additional plantilla positions under the Field Operations Division, to assist in the implementation of the NOAP in their respective regions. The DA-RFOs shall perform the following functions and responsibilities with respect to the implementation of the NOAP:
- 10.7.1. Gather policy recommendations from regional stakeholders;
 - 10.7.2. Disseminate policies and regulations to regional stakeholders;
 - 10.7.3. Assist regional stakeholders in preparing their plans, including the organic agriculture roadmaps and organic agribusiness plans;
 - 10.7.4. Monitor compliance to policies and regulations in their regions;

- 10.7.5. Prepare annual budget for organic agriculture program responsive to the needs of their regional stakeholders;
- 10.7.6. Implement and monitor organic agriculture programs and projects in their region;
- 10.7.7. Promote organic agriculture in their regions, including the conduct of regional Organic Agriculture Achievers' Awards, the conduct of Organic Agriculture Month, and consumer awareness;
- 10.7.8. Provide assistance in the organic agriculture certification process within their regions;
- 10.7.9. Assist in the capacity development of LGUs and farmers' associations concerning organic agriculture;
- 10.7.10. Submit reports and data required by the NOAP;
- 10.7.11. Participate in NOAP assessments;
- 10.7.12. Conduct field validation of organic agriculture enterprises;
- 10.7.13. Participate in the identification of priority and basic organic agriculture commodities of the different localities in their region; and
- 10.7.14. Maintain a registry of organic agriculture practitioners in their region.

Rule 10.8. Pending the approval of the DBM, the existing NOAP-NPCO and the NOAP regional focal persons shall continue to perform their current functions as interim NOAP-NPCO and NOAP-RPCOs, respectively.

Rule 10.9. The Integrated Laboratory Divisions (ILDs) of the DA-RFOs and laboratories of concerned DA Regulatory Agencies and SUCs shall be upgraded and capacitated to assist in the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Rule 10.10. All NOAP implementing agencies of the DA shall modify its existing structure and staffing pattern, if appropriate, for the provision of the required manpower complement in order to perform its function.

Section 11. *Work Plan* – In line with the National Organic Agriculture Program, the NOAP-NPCO shall submit to the Board for approval the following:

- (a) A plan of bringing the program down to the grassroots, utilizing available personnel and facilities on the local level and those of LGUs;

- (b) A pattern of cooperation and mutual assistance with LGUs, POs and NGOs, which will maximize people empowerment and participatory approaches to program formulation, implementation and monitoring; and
- (c) A schedule of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets on research and development, marketing, trade promotion/initiatives, capacity building, among others.

Rule 11.1. The NOAB shall formulate institutional mechanisms and arrangements that will ensure the effective implementation of the Work and Financial Plan and further assist NOAP-NPCO in carrying out the plan in a most expeditious, efficient, and cost-effective manner. This must be achieved through effective coordination and networking among appropriate NGAs and the LGUs as well as the existing network of organic producers and their support organizations including the small farmers/fisherfolks, agrarian reform beneficiaries, landless farmworkers, and indigenous peoples.

Section 12. *Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)* – The BAFS of the DA shall be restructured, strengthened and empowered to support the objectives of this Act. It shall provide technical assistance to the NOAB and the NOAP-NPCO. The BAFS, in addition to its existing functions and responsibilities, shall perform the following functions, duties and responsibilities for purposes of this Act:

- (a) Formulate and update standards relevant to organic agriculture;
- (b) Issue accreditation to OCBs;
- (c) Conduct inspections on compliance of PGS groups with the Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture, and publish at least once a year the list of compliant PGS groups;
- (d) Issue registration of organic inputs, such as organic soil amendments and organic bio-control agents;
- (e) Issue registration of integrated organic farms with multiple commodities/production and of organic input producers;
- (f) Rule on the appeal of farm/farm owner on decisions made by OCBs and the concerned municipal/city PGS groups on inspection and certification issues; and
- (g) Perform such other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be necessary to implement this Act.

Rule 12.1. The DA-BAFS shall be restructured, strengthened and empowered, and shall be authorized to submit plantilla position requirements for its National Office and create Regional Field Units (RFUs) to ensure that the additional functions, duties, and responsibilities as provided in this Act are effectively and efficiently carried out.

- Rule 12.2. To institutionalize DA-BAFS at the regional level, each DA-BAFS RFU shall have at least five (5) plantilla positions headed by a Supervising Science Research Specialist and shall be responsible for the following:
- 12.2.1. Provide technical and administrative support, including but not limited to the provision of manpower, for the implementation of DA-BAFS accreditation, registration, and monitoring and labeling enforcement;
 - 12.2.2. Pre-assess applicants for core PGS group and PGS farm member certification and endorse qualified operators to DA-BAFS National Office;
 - 12.2.3. Assist applicants and serve as enquiry point of registration and accreditation;
 - 12.2.4. Coordinate with regional and private laboratories the sampling and testing of samples collected during the monitoring;
 - 12.2.5. Assist on handling appeals and complaints relative to the implementation of organic agriculture regulations at the regional level;
 - 12.2.6. Submit lists, updates, and reports to the DA-BAFS National Office on matters of organic agriculture regulations; and
 - 12.2.7. Coordinate with the DA-RFOs and concerned regional offices all activities relative to the promotion of standards and regulations.
- Rule 12.3. The Standards Development Division, Technical Services Division, and Laboratory Services Division of the DA-BAFS shall be strengthened and capacitated through incremental staffing to provide support to Organic Agriculture Division (OAD) in carrying out additional functions, duties and responsibilities provided by this Act.
- Rule 12.4. In view of strengthening the DA-BAFS as a competent authority for organic agriculture, the DA-BAFS shall have an Assistant Director to assist the Director of DA-BAFS in overseeing the regulatory functions, and development and promotion of standards relevant to organic agriculture. It shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.
- Rule 12.5. The OAD shall be headed by the Chief Science Research Specialist with Supervising Science Research Specialist.
- 12.5.1. The existing Organic Agriculture Accreditation Section shall be renamed as Accreditation Section to perform the functions, duties and responsibilities in accordance with Sections 13 (*Accreditation of OCB*) and 14 (*Participatory Guarantee System*) of this Act. It

shall have two units: 1. Third-party Organic Certifying Body (OCB) Unit covering domestic and international OCBs, and 2. Participatory Guarantee System Unit wherein the manpower complement shall be provided from the dissolved NOAB Secretariat Section. The Accreditation Section shall ensure that the organic certification schemes and accreditation requirements are aligned and harmonized with international standards.

12.5.2. The existing Organic Agriculture Registration Section shall be renamed as Registration Section and shall be responsible for the registration of integrated organic farms, and organic inputs such as organic soil amendments and organic bio-control agents consistent with Section 17 (*Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, Inputs, and Organic Processed Foods*) of this Act.

12.5.3. The existing Organic Agriculture Networking Section shall be renamed as Monitoring and Labeling Enforcement Section and shall be responsible for the verification of continued compliance by organic operators with standards and regulations relevant to DA-BAFS' regulatory functions in accordance with Sections 17 (*Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, Inputs, and Organic Processed Foods*), 18 (*Labeling of Organic Produce*) and 19 (*Retailing of Organic Produce*) of this Act. This Section shall also be responsible for handling appeals and complaints relevant to DA-BAFS regulatory functions.

Rule 12.6. The DA-BAFS shall formulate and/or update organic agriculture standards of fresh, primary and postharvest which would cover crops, poultry and livestock, and fish and fishery products including its labeling and production practices, as necessary. Production and postharvest processing of organic produce shall comply with applicable on-farm food safety standards, guidelines, and codes of practice.

Rule 12.7. All standards adopted shall, as applicable, be disseminated in any available media.

Rule 12.8. The DA-BAFS shall formulate the necessary policies and guidelines for the handling of appeals and complaints of PGS groups and their clients, subject to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 12.9. The DA-BAFS shall provide technical assistance to the NOAB and NOAP-NPCO relevant to its functions, duties, and responsibilities provided in this Section, to support the implementation of programs and projects identified by the NOAB. The DA-BAFS shall submit quarterly reports to the NOAB through the NOAP-NPCO.

Section 13. *Accreditation of OCB* – The BAFS is hereby designated and authorized to grant official accreditation to an OCB or entity. The BAFS is tasked to formulate the necessary rules and procedures in the accreditation of OCBs performing third-party certification, or granting certification as part of the PGS: *Provided*, That there shall be at least one (1) accredited OCB, performing third-party certification, each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, or in case of only one (1) OCB performing third-party certification is accredited, it shall have at least one (1) satellite office or processing unit each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Rule 13.1. The DA-BAFS shall be authorized to accredit OCBs or entities that shall perform certification and inspection of organic management systems in accordance with the applicable current PNS for OA and relevant regulations.

Rule 13.2. The DA-BAFS shall review and revise, as appropriate, existing guidelines, rules, and procedures for the accreditation of OCBs. Likewise, DA-BAFS shall develop policies and guidelines for the accreditation of Core PGS groups or any qualified entity applying for accreditation, and related activities such as handling complaints and appeals relating to the operations of accredited PGS groups. These policies and guidelines shall be subjected to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 13.3. The DA-BAFS shall create a TWG tasked to evaluate the results of inspections and assessments, to recommend decisions for accreditation to the DA-BAFS Director. The TWG shall be composed of individuals competent in organic agriculture, fisheries, inputs, environment, quality infrastructure, and relevant standards and regulations. The TWG members tapped as inspectors or assessors for the purposes of Section 13 (Accreditation of OCB), shall not be part of the evaluation process to avoid conflict of interest.

Rule 13.4. If there is only one (1) accredited third-party OCB in the country or only one (1) accredited third-party OCB for a particular scope, it shall maintain a satellite office or processing unit, either a physical office or in the form of an authorized OCB personnel, each based in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Rule 13.5. The DA-BAFS shall issue accreditation certificates valid for five (5) years, subject to annual surveillance audits.

Rule 13.6. All organic certificates issued by the accredited OCBs shall be valid for three (3) years, subject to annual inspections.

Rule 13.7. The DA-BAFS shall maintain and publish the list of accredited OCBs, and shall ensure that the list is periodically updated.

Rule 13.8. Accreditation policies and guidelines shall be made available to the public through DA-BAFS website and other means of communication.

Rule 13.9. The DA-BAFS and the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) of the DTI (DTI-PAB), as the National Accreditation Body of the country, shall strengthen its collaboration to ensure effective implementation of the accreditation of OCBs such as, but not

limited to, the conduct of joint assessments and capacity building.

Section 14. *Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)* –

- (a) *Basic Principles.* The PGS shall be the mechanism by which small farmers/fisherfolk, their farms/associations/cooperatives shall be certified as engaged in organic agriculture and as producers of organic agriculture products. The participatory organic certification from a government agency or OCBs, organized in accordance with this Act, shall be promoted and accepted. The products certified through the PGS shall be traded only in the domestic market, unless covered by an international certification or a mutual recognition agreement.

An association or group under the PGS shall adhere to the PNS for organic agriculture.

Further, associations or groups under the PGS shall adopt the following features and characteristics:

- (i) Existence of organic agriculture norms conceived by the organic agriculture stakeholders, norms that are appropriate to smallholder agriculture;
 - (ii) Grassroots organization: the participatory certification should be perceived as a result of a social dynamic, based on the active participation of all stakeholders;
 - (iii) Existence of principles and values that enhance the livelihoods and well-being of farming families and promote organic agriculture;
 - (iv) Documented management systems and procedures;
 - (v) Provision of mechanisms to verify farmer's compliance to established norms;
 - (vi) Provision of mechanisms for supporting farmers to produce organic products and be certified as organic farmers, which shall include field advisors, newsletters, farm visits, web sites, among others;
 - (vii) Existence of a bottom-line document, such as a farmer's pledge, that shall state his/her agreement to the established norms;
 - (viii) Introduction or use of seals or labels providing evidence of organic status; and
 - (ix) Existence of a clear and previously defined set of recommendations and measures against farmers who fail to comply with the standard.
- (b) *Legal Personality.* The core PGS group shall be registered with the municipality/city where the PGS group is predominantly located. It shall secure a mayor's permit from said municipality/city, possession

of which shall suffice as proof of registration and the grant of legal personality, which however shall be limited only to PGS transactions.

The national organization of LGUs actually engaged in organic agriculture shall also secure a legal personality for purposes of accreditation by the BAFS.

Any other OCB shall secure a mayor's permit from the municipality/city where it intends to operate and possession of which shall suffice to grant them legal personality for purposes of accreditation by the BAFS.

- (c) *Certification.* The BAFS shall provide the guidelines for the certification of farms, pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

A farm/farm owner applying for certification as an organic agriculture practitioner shall join a PGS group in the same municipality/city where his/her farm is located, or with a PGS group in a municipality/city within the same province to which he/she, as the farm owner, regularly interacts or conducts business with.

The farm/farm owner shall apply for a participatory organic certificate with a core PGS group of the PGS group where the farm belongs; or with a national organization of LGUs initiating organic agriculture practices, a member of which is the municipality/city where the PGS group is located; or with any private group or organization actually engaged in organic agriculture and operating in that municipality/city; any of which is accredited as an OCB.

The decision of any of the abovementioned OCBs shall be appealable to the BAFS: *Provided*, That the BAFS shall rule on the appeal within thirty (30) days from its receipt. Otherwise, the appealed decision shall be considered reversed.

The withdrawal of membership in the PGS group shall mean forfeiture of the privilege for the farm/farm owner to use the participatory organic certificate.

In case a member of the core PGS group representing a farm applies for renewal of certification with the same core PGS group, the member of the core PGS group must inhibit himself/herself before the application for renewal can be considered.

- (d) *Accreditation.* The BAFS shall provide the guidelines for accreditation.

A registered core PGS group shall apply for accreditation with the BAFS. A core PGS group shall be accorded accreditation by the BAFS only if it has at least five (5) members, coming from different farms within the municipality/city or within the province, certified and actually practicing organic agriculture. The BAFS shall extend technical and financial support to a core PGS group in its application for accreditation.

For purposes of this Section, the BAFS is hereby authorized to certify five (5) individual farms as a core PGS group: *Provided*, that once such core PGS group is accredited to certify, it can subsequently certify as organic agriculture compliant other core PGS groups: *Provided, further*, That the authorization to certify shall be deemed revoked when the core

membership becomes less than five (5) or any of the minimum five (5) member farms becomes noncompliant to organic agriculture standards.

A national organization of LGUs actually initiating or engaged in organic agriculture; or any private group or organization actually engaged in organic agriculture, as direct farm producer, as a promoter/advocate of the ways, methods and principles of organic agriculture, or as a marketer of organic agriculture produce; may also apply for accreditation as an OCB.

The BAFS shall issue its decision on the application for accreditation by a core PGS group or any qualified entity applying for accreditation within sixty (60) days from the submission of the complete requirements. Failure to render a decision within such period shall be deemed an approval of the application for accreditation as an OCB. The BAFS shall not charge any application fee.

(e) *Organizational Levels.*

(1) *The Core PGS Group.* Every core PGS group should have at least five (5) members, composed of farmers from a combination of both the crops and livestock sectors. It may add to its membership farmers from other sectors in agriculture, NGOs, people's organizations, buyers of organic agriculture products, suppliers of organic inputs, among others, who all lives or operate within the province and regularly interact with the concerned PGS group.

Each core PGS group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (i) Develop an understanding of the organic standards;
- (ii) Make sure farm practices are compliant;
- (iii) Make a pledge that they understand and adhere to the organic standards;
- (iv) Conduct inspection and certification activities of member farms. At least a majority of the members of the core PGS group who joined in the actual inspection and certification activity should sign on the truthfulness of the findings of the inspection and certification activity;
- (v) Recommend which farms will be certified;
- (vi) Initiate key field trainings for farmer-members and residents in their locality to promote organic agriculture;
- (vii) Attend municipal/provincial PGS meetings and share information.
- (viii) Take actions on defaults/noncompliance as per sanction guidelines to be provided by the BAFS, OCBs and municipality/city PGS groups; and
- (ix) Assist defaulting and non-compliant members to regain certification status.

(2) *Municipal/City PGS Group.* The municipal/city PGS group shall be composed of the following: 1) One (1) representative for each core PGS group in the municipality/city; and 2) One (1) representative from a regional agricultural state university or college (SUC) or local private agricultural educational institution: *Provided*, that there should be at least two (2) core PGS groups in the municipality/city before a municipal/city PGS group can be established.

The municipal/city PGS group shall conduct its business and affairs based on the majority decision of the members present, after having secured a quorum.

The municipal/city PGS group shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- (i) Together with the BAFS, develop or update and implement the PGS, as provided in this Act;
- (ii) Ensure that compliant farmer members continue to comply with all the requirements of the applicable PNS for organic agriculture and relevant regulatory requirements;
- (iii) Maintain a registry of core PGS groups operating within its area of jurisdiction, which shall be forwarded to the BAFS on year-end for the latter's national database;
- (iv) Together with the OCB involved in the inspection and certification activity, and in coordination with the BAFS, issue participatory organic certificate and the "PGS Guaranteed Organic" label/mark to compliant small farmer/fisherfolk and/or their farm/association/cooperative; and
- (v) Submit regularly to the BAFS a list of certified small farmer/fisherfolk and/or their farm/association/cooperative.

In case a municipal/city PGS group has yet to be established, the BAFS, in coordination with the LGU concerned, shall assume the powers, duties and responsibilities of this group.

(3) *Provincial and National PGS group.* It shall be the option of the PGS groups to form their aggrupation at the provincial and national levels. They shall receive the financial and technical assistance, support and guidance of the departments in the NOAB and the BAFS in this regard. The provincial governments shall encourage and support the formation and activities of these PGS groups in the different provinces, cities and municipalities within their jurisdiction.

(f) *Promotion.* The NOAB shall actively promote, search and recognize associations or groups that have been practicing organic agriculture through the PGS, in accordance with this Act. The NOAB shall ensure that each province in the country has a PGS group. Every PGS group shall conduct training and promote organic agriculture.

- (g) *Training and Inspection.* The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) shall, in close coordination with the BAFS, make available the required training program on organic agriculture standards and processes for PGS groups applying for BAFS accreditation. The BAFS shall conduct random inspections to ensure that PGS groups are all compliant with the PNS for organic agriculture. The BAFS shall keep a record of compliant PGS groups in the country and shall publish a list of such compliance at least once a year.
- (h) *Incentives.* Any small farmer/fisherfolk or their farms/associations/cooperatives engaged in organic agriculture or any organic input producer, certified by its core PGS group or any OCB, accredited under this section, to be compliant for a period of five (5) years, without any offense or infraction, shall be eligible for a full government subsidy of the cost for an international certification for one (1) year: *Provided*, that they shall export their products. Further, so long as the same entities maintain their status of compliance, they shall be invited and given, for free, prime location in any government agency-initiated or sponsored trade and business marketing gathering of Filipino products, for the purpose of displaying and selling their own organic products.

Rule 14.1. The PGS group shall strive for a collective commitment to a set of principles reflected through actions that demonstrate measurable compliance with the organic principles. The PGS group shall recognize and ensure the involvement of different stakeholders in its design, implementation, and day-to-day operations as integral to its overall effectiveness and credibility.

Rule 14.2. The PGS group shall promote the availability and accessibility of guaranteed organic produce and products within the community. PGS guaranteed organic produce and products shall be primarily marketed within the municipality/city or province wherein the producer may directly link with the consumers or indirectly through an intermediary.

Rule 14.3. The DA-BAFS shall develop policies and guidelines for the establishment and operation of the PGS groups.

Rule 14.4. Minimum requirements for organic certification under the PGS shall be based on the applicable current PNS for OA.

Rule 14.5. The DA-BAFS shall develop policies and guidelines for the accreditation of core PGS groups or any qualified entity applying for accreditation, and related activities such as certification procedure, issuance of certification decision, and handling of complaints and appeals relating to the operations of accredited PGS groups. These guidelines shall be subjected to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 14.6. The DA-BAFS shall certify five (5) individual farms selected by the PGS group to form the core PGS group, and endorsed by the municipal/city local technical committee for organic agriculture (LTC OA). In the absence of a municipal/city LTC OA, the endorsement shall be made by the office of the municipal/city LCE. The endorsement shall be used by DA-BAFS for certification purposes.

- Rule 14.7. The issuance of accreditation decision by DA-BAFS shall be within sixty (60) days from the submission of the complete requirements. However, this shall exclude the compliance period of the applicant to resolve assessment findings.
- Rule 14.8. The accredited core PGS group can subsequently certify other core PGS groups located within the same municipality/city or province for the purposes of accreditation by DA-BAFS.
- Rule 14.9. The accredited core PGS group shall be authorized to issue Participatory Organic Certificate to its farmer member following completion of the inspection and certification activities to the compliant farmer member. The compliant farmer member shall be authorized to use the Philippine PGS Guaranteed Organic mark.
- Rule 14.10. All core PGS group representatives of municipal/city PGS group shall be from accredited core PGS group. The municipal/city PGS group shall ensure that representations from accredited core PGS groups and regional agricultural state university or college or local private agricultural educational institutions are competent in carrying out their powers, duties, and responsibilities.
- Rule 14.11. The Support Sector (academic and research institutions, LGUs, financial institutions, and civil society organizations (CSO)) shall encourage the formation and support the operations of PGS groups within their locality through the provision of technical and financial assistance. These sectors may be represented in the PGS group within their locality.
- Rule 14.12. The PGS groups may form into a provincial and national aggrupation and provide technical support to their farmer members.
- Rule 14.13. The NOAB through its member departments shall develop policies and guidelines for the provision of financial and technical assistance to encourage the formation and support of the activities of the PGS groups.
- Rule 14.14. The Agricultural Training Institute of the DA (DA-ATI) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in close coordination with DA-BAFS, shall develop and implement training programs relevant to standards, guidelines, and procedures for the establishment and operations of PGS groups.
- Rule 14.15. The NOAB, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall develop policies and guidelines for the availing of subsidy for international organic certification schemes in accordance with the provisions of Section 25 (*Incentives*) of this Act.

Section 15. *Organic Agriculture and the Protection of the Environment* – The NOAB shall constantly devise and implement ways and means not only of producing organic fertilizers and other farm inputs and needs on and off the farm but also of helping to alleviate the problems of industrial waste and community garbage

disposal through appropriate methods of sorting, collecting and composting. The BAFPS shall conduct continuing studies, with consultations among the people and officials involved as well as POs and NGOs, in order to advise local governments, from the barangay to the provincial level, on the collection and disposal of garbage and waste in such a way as to provide raw materials for the production of organic fertilizer and other farm inputs.

Rule 15.1. The NOAB, in coordination with the National Waste Management Commission, shall issue guidelines for the inclusion by the LGUs in their respective local Solid Waste Management Plan, appropriate programs, projects, and activities on the utilization of local wastes, for the production of organic fertilizer in accordance with the current applicable PNS for OA.

Rule 15.2. The DA through its concerned agencies shall include mechanisms for the implementation of this provision.

15.2.1. The Bureau of Animal Industry of the DA (DA-BAI) shall include appropriate mechanisms to ensure mitigation of seepages and run-offs from farm waste including animal waste from abattoir.

15.2.2. The Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the DA (DA-BSWM) and ILDs of the DA RFOs shall assist the organic agriculture stakeholders for the analysis of produce and inputs.

15.2.3. The BAFPS, now DA-BAFS per RA No. 10601, otherwise known as "Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law of 2013", shall review and update, as deemed necessary, the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture that shall serve as the basis of the LGUs in the collection and disposal of garbage and waste as a source of raw materials for the production of organic fertilizer and other farm inputs.

15.2.4. The NOAB through its member departments shall mandate their concerned agencies with research functions to conduct continuing studies with the primary objective of identifying and promoting alternative uses of industrial waste and community garbage taking into consideration the provisions of the PNS for OA.

Section 16. *Local Executive Concerns* – Every provincial governor shall, insofar as practicable, form a provincial technical committee, and which shall, in coordination with and assistance of the BAFPS/DA-Regional Field Units (RFUs), implement activities in line with the National Organic Agricultural Program within each province.

Every municipal mayor shall likewise, insofar as practicable, form a municipal technical committee for purposes of implementing activities in line with the National Organic Agricultural Program within each municipality.

A local government unit that intends to shift its area of responsibility to organic agriculture must ensure that local industries have been adequately informed and consulted and that a viable plan to ensure supply for vulnerable industries is in place.

Local government units shall coordinate with the DA–Bureau of Plant Industry for the establishment and/or strengthening of local organic seed centers in order to increase farmers' adoption of organic agriculture.

The municipalities and cities are hereby enjoined to enact ordinances that shall protect organic farming zones and organic farming practices.

The governors shall monitor implementation of and compliance with this Act within their respective jurisdictions.

Rule 16.1. The chief executives of the LGUs, in coordination with and assistance of the DA-RFOs, shall establish a multi-sectoral provincial/municipal/city LTC OA, within their respective jurisdictions composed of the following:

16.1.1. LCE;

16.1.2. Committee Chairperson on Agriculture;

16.1.3. Municipal/City Local Government Operations Officer (M/CLGOO);

16.1.4. Council Committee Chairperson on Finance;

16.1.5. Chairperson of a barangay actually engaged in organic agriculture;

16.1.6. Three (3) representatives from the small farmers associations representing crops, livestock and fisheries, and preferably certified organic;

16.1.7. One (1) representative from the agribusiness sector or registered cooperative actually engaged in organic agriculture;

16.1.8. One (1) representative from the CSOs actually engaged in organic agriculture;

16.1.9. One (1) representative from the consumer group, whenever applicable;

16.1.10. One (1) representative from the academe sector, whenever applicable; and

16.1.11. One (1) representative from indigenous peoples' organizations, whenever applicable.

Rule 16.2. The representation of NGOs, academe, private business, and small farmers in the LTC OA shall be drawn through their own processes of selection and in consultation with the concerned stakeholders to ensure participatory process and transparency.

Rule 16.3. LTC OA shall elect its chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary.

- Rule 16.4. For every LTC OA established, the Provincial and the Municipal/City Agriculture Officer, together with their OA focal person, shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the committee.
- Rule 16.5. The representatives from LGU shall be entitled to one (1) vote casted by the highest official or his/her authorized representative.
- Rule 16.6. The provincial LTC OA shall be composed of the chairpersons of the municipal/city LTC OA or their authorized representatives, and other relevant representations as identified by the provincial LTC OA.
- Rule 16.7. The provincial and municipal/city LTC OA shall establish a collaboration mechanism for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the organic agriculture program, in line with the NOAP. The provincial LTC OA shall assist the municipal/city LTC OA in the implementation of the organic agriculture program, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program in their respective jurisdictions.
- Rule 16.8. The LTC OA shall be responsible for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the organic agriculture program, in line with the NOAP. They shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program in their respective jurisdictions.
- Rule 16.9. The LGUs shall promulgate appropriate provincial and/or municipal/city ordinance or resolutions that shall promote the participatory and bottom-up approach to grassroots organic agricultural programs and projects in their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, appropriating funds for the purposes thereof.
- Rule 16.10. The LGUs, in coordination with their LTC OA, shall encourage the formation and support of the operations of municipal/city PGS groups within their locality through the provision of technical and financial assistance.
- Rule 16.11. The LGUs through their LTC OA shall coordinate with the Bureau of Plant Industry of the DA (DA-BPI) and other concerned agencies for the establishment and/or strengthening of seed banks for indigenous varieties including national campaigns for the protection and preservation of indigenous and traditional crop varieties.
- Rule 16.12. The LGUs through their LTC OA shall develop a local OA industry profile that shall form part of the national OA industry profile to be developed by the NOAB.
- Rule 16.13. The LGUs through their LTC OA shall issue an ordinance for the monitoring and regulation of organic produce and products sold within its respective jurisdiction.
- Rule 16.14. The LGUs shall also ensure the implementation of relevant provisions under Sections 14 (*Participatory Guarantee System*),

19 (*Retailing of Organic Produce*), 20 (*Market Development and Trade Promotion*), and 25 (*Incentives*) of this Act, and other directives from the NOAB. The LGUs are encouraged to propose plantilla positions to support the implementation of these functions including the promotion and development of organic agriculture in their respective jurisdictions.

Section 17. *Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, Inputs, and Organic Processed Food* – The BAFS of the DA shall be responsible for the registration of integrated organic farms and organic inputs such as organic soil amendments and organic bio-control agents. The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) of the DA shall be responsible for the registration of organic seeds, planting materials, and crops.

Further, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the DA shall be responsible for the registration of organic apiculture farms, livestock and poultry and its feeds. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the DA shall be responsible for the registration of organic fisheries and aquaculture resources and organic aquaculture feeds.

The BAFS, BPI, BAI, and BFAR of the DA shall come up with a single unified set of rules and regulations for the registration of organic produce and inputs.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health (DOH) shall be responsible for the product registration of organic processed food. It shall formulate its rules and regulations for the registration of organic pre-packaged and processed food.

Rule 17.1. The NOAB, in close collaboration with DA-BAFS, DA-BPI, DA-BAI, DA-BFAR, and other DA Regulatory Agencies, as deemed necessary, shall develop a single unified set of rules and regulations for the registration and monitoring of organic producers, produce, products, and inputs covering local and imported products consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Rule 17.2. Monitoring of registered organic producers, produce, products, and inputs shall be coordinated with the concerned regional offices.

Rule 17.3. Concerned DA regulatory agencies shall establish and manage a database of registered organic operators, produce, and products within their purview. The database shall be linked to the dedicated website of the NOAP.

Rule 17.4. The DOH-FDA shall review and revise, as deemed necessary, their existing rules and regulations on the registration of organic pre-packaged and processed food in accordance with applicable provisions of Section 18 (*Labeling of Organic Produce*) of this Act. The DOH-FDA shall also be responsible for the monitoring activities of registered pre-packaged and processed food, and maintenance of a database.

Section 18. *Labeling of Organic Produce* – The label of organic produce shall contain the name, logo or seal of the OCB and the accreditation number issued by the BAFS. The organic label/mark shall also include the trade name, as defined by

pertinent domestic property rights laws, and the address of origin of the produce.

Products that are certified and guaranteed by a third-party organic certification system and the PGS shall be allowed to be labeled and sold as organic.

- Rule 18.1. Only produce and products that are certified and guaranteed by DA-BAFS' accredited OCBs shall be labeled as organic accompanied by appropriate mark, and sold upon registration with concerned regulatory agencies.
- Rule 18.2. The NOAB, in collaboration with concerned DA, DOH, and DTI agencies, as deemed necessary, shall develop policies and guidelines for the labeling of organic produce and products in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- Rule 18.3. The label of organic produce and products certified by DA-BAFS' accredited OCBs shall indicate the "Philippine Organic" mark and shall contain at least the following information: trade name, third-party OCB accreditation number, OCB logo or seal, and other labeling requirements of the concerned regulatory agency.
- Rule 18.4. The label of organic produce and products guaranteed by DA-BAFS' accredited PGS groups shall indicate the "Philippine PGS Guaranteed Organic" mark and shall contain at least the following information: trade name, PGS group accreditation number, PGS group logo or seal, and other labeling requirements of the concerned regulatory agency.
- Rule 18.5. The "Philippine Organic" mark and "Philippine PGS Guaranteed Organic" mark shall appear only on organic certificates and on the label of all certified or guaranteed produce and products.
- Rule 18.6. The DA-BAFS shall create and register the "Philippine Organic" mark and "Philippine PGS Guaranteed Organic" mark with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.
- Rule 18.7. The DA, DOH, and DTI agencies shall conduct monitoring within their purview, in coordination with concerned LGUs, as deemed necessary, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 17 (*Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, and Products*), 18 (*Labeling of Organic Produce*) and 19 (*Retailing of Organic Produce*) of this Act.
- Rule 18.8. The concerned DA, DOH, and DTI agencies shall cooperate to warn the public against the mislabeled organic produce and products within their purview through advisories. These advisories shall be linked to the dedicated website of the NOAP.
- Rule 18.9. The LGUs, in coordination with the DILG, shall monitor and enforce regulations relative to the organic produce and product sold within its respective jurisdiction, in accordance with the applicable regulations and laws.

Section 19. *Retailing of Organic Produce* – Retail establishments or stores of organic produce shall designate a separate area to display the organic produce to avoid mixing it with non-organic produce.

Rule 19.1. The NOAB shall call upon concerned DA, DILG, DOH, and DTI agencies, to develop or update, as deemed necessary, policies and guidelines relevant to the retailing of organic produce and products including the display of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, within the purview of the respective agencies, and in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other existing applicable laws. The policies and guidelines shall be subjected to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 19.2. Retail establishments shall specifically designate an area where organic produce and products are conspicuously displayed. Retailing of organic produce and products including its handling shall be in accordance with the applicable current PNS for OA to prevent commingling. Only certified organic produce and products shall be displayed in the organic section and labeled as such.

Section 20. *Market Development and Trade Promotion* – The agribusiness and marketing assistance service of the DA, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, shall develop and implement market development and trade promotion programs for organic agriculture, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Development of marketing agenda for organic agriculture;
- (b) Establishment, ensuring sustainability and monitoring of organic trading posts and stall/outlets: *Provided*, that these trading posts and stall/outlets are strategically located in an area such as in the public market and other centers of trading and local business activities;
- (c) Development of market information system;
- (d) Promotion of organic food, non-food and input products; and
- (e) Facilitation of market matching activities.

Rule 20.1. The NOAB through its concerned TWG shall develop the framework and process for the development of the short, medium, and long-term marketing agenda.

Rule 20.2. The DA-AMAS and DTI, in coordination with other concerned agencies, shall develop and update short, medium, and long term marketing agenda for organic agriculture, when necessary. The marketing agenda shall be developed following the NOAB approved framework and process and shall be based on the results of market-related researches and consultation with concerned stakeholders, subject to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 20.3. The DA-AMAS, through the DA-RFO's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Divisions, shall conduct inventory and status of DA-funded organic agriculture trading posts and make necessary recommendations for each, particularly its possible integration to the organic agriculture hubs.

- Rule 20.4. The NOAB shall form partnerships with concerned agencies and organizations to develop and implement digital systems and mechanisms for forecasting demand and monitoring supply/production, connecting both sellers and producers in a unified platform.
- Rule 20.5. The NOAP-NPCO, in coordination with DA-AMAS and DTI, shall lead the development of an organic agriculture industry profile.
- Rule 20.6. The DA-AMAS, and DTI including their regional offices, shall conduct and participate in local and/or international trade fairs and exhibits in order to promote organic food, non-food, and input products.
- Rule 20.7. The marketing interventions shall cover the provision of trading capital, capacity building on enterprise development, post-harvest, value-adding, and logistics equipment and facilities.
- Rule 20.8. The NOAP shall only fund projects and/or activities listed in the short, medium, and long-term marketing agenda.
- Rule 20.9. The LGUs, with the assistance of the DA-RFOs, shall facilitate activities to promote organic produce and products, including the regular conduct of special market day for certified produce and products.

Section 21. *Research, Development and Extension* – The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), as the lead agency, shall coordinate with the other agencies of the DA, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Education (DepED), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the strategic agricultural-based state universities and colleges (SUCs) including private organizations, to develop, enhance, support and consolidate activities and related technologies for the formulation and implementation of a unified and integrated organic agriculture RDE plans and programs from the national to the field level. The organic agriculture RDE plans and programs shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Research, development and commercialization of appropriate, innovative and viable organic agricultural technologies;
- (b) Nationwide promotion of developed and commercially viable biodegradable farm wastes and by-products through various extension strategies to accelerate the production, use and distribution of organic fertilizers; and
- (c) Conduct research for market development, policy formulation, regulation and certification.

Rule 21.1. The DA-BAR, in coordination with the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the DOST (DOST-PCAARRD), with the assistance of the NOAP, shall strengthen the unified and integrated Organic Agriculture Research, Development and Extension (OA RDE) Agenda responsive to the needs of the stakeholders along the value chain. The OA RDE Agenda shall include research on the

gaps along the value chain to generate technologies and policy recommendations for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Rule 21.2. The DA-BAR shall strengthen its existing organization and management to effectively and efficiently handle the overall planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the national OA RDE program. The DA-BAR as the lead agency shall ensure the corresponding budget to effectively carry out its following functions and responsibilities under this Act:

21.2.1. Review and update its existing rules and procedures (e.g. guidelines on the provision of OA funds for the implementation of the national OA RDE program) within 180 days upon the effectivity of the IRR, thereafter, upon the instruction of the NOAB;

21.2.2. Review and update the OA RDE Agenda, in consultation with research institutions and relevant stakeholders, to be consistent with the OA Roadmap and provisions of this Act;

21.2.3. Enhance the monitoring and evaluation system of the funded research projects in accordance with the OA RDE Agenda;

21.2.4. Ensure dissemination of research results for the formulation of policies relevant to market development, regulation and certification, and development and updating of relevant PNS for OA;

21.2.5. Update and maintain the established database and information system on the national OA RDE program to be linked to the NOAP website; and

21.2.6. Strengthen coordination with other agencies for the timely exchange of relevant data and information on OA researches.

Rule 21.3. The DA-BAR and DOST-PCAARRD shall strengthen their mechanism for the consultation process with concerned stakeholders to ensure that the researchers are more community-responsive, appropriate, and friendly to organic small farmers/fisherfolks.

Rule 21.4. The NOAB, in coordination with the concerned agencies, shall encourage the conduct of research relevant to the indigenous knowledge and practices and its mainstreaming, thereafter, while ensuring its protection against biopiracy, and provide necessary funds, in compliance with the existing rules and regulations, and applicable laws.

Rule 21.5. The DA-ATI, in close coordination with DA-BAR, shall develop a mechanism to identify the appropriate extension services that will massively promote the technologies generated, in accordance with relevant rules under Section 24 (*Organic*

Agriculture in the Formal and Non-Formal Sectors), subject to the approval of the NOAB.

Rule 21.6. Likewise, extension activities to be supported by the NOAP shall be relevant to organic agriculture stakeholders in respective localities. In this regard, DA-ATI Regional Training Centers and LGUs shall collaborate to develop an extension agenda for organic agriculture stakeholders in their respective localities.

Section 22. *Creation of Organic Agriculture RDE Network* – An organic agriculture RDE network shall be organized by the BAR, composed of research and educational institutions, LGUs, nongovernment agencies and the recognized association of organic fertilizer manufacturers and distributors, agricultural engineers, agriculturists, soil technologist, farmers group and/or associations.

Rule 22.1. The DA-BAR shall formally establish and strengthen the OA RDE Network. This OA RDE Network shall be composed of institutions known for their involvement in organic agriculture. The Network shall closely collaborate with Regional Research, Development and Extension Network (RRDEN) and Regional Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortia (RAANRRDC) to facilitate sharing and exchange of research results and technologies for wider dissemination.

Rule 22.2. The NOAP, through DA-BAI, DA-BFAR, DA-BPI, DA-BSWM, DA-Phi, and such other research institutions, shall primarily focus its assistance on the development of organic agricultural systems pursuant to their organizational mandates.

Rule 22.3. The DA-RFOs, DA-ATI, and LGUs, organic small farmers/fisherfolk organizations and NGOs providing RDE services, in close partnership with local and community-based service providers, shall undertake technology transfer and related extension activities.

Rule 22.4. The OA RDE Network and the NOAB shall explore the possibility of partnerships with international organizations to promote cooperation in areas of mutual benefit and interest in support of the implementation of the OA RDE Agenda.

Section 23. *RDE Centers* – National, regional and provincial organic R&D and extension centers shall be organized, established and integrated as a major component of the existing RDE centers of the DA, the DOST, the DENR, SUCs and the LGUs. These will be strengthened and enhanced to spearhead the integrated program to develop and promote organic agriculture throughout the country.

Rule 23.1. The established national and regional organic research, development, and extension (RDE) centers shall be continually strengthened and capacitated to implement the integrated OA program of their respective areas for further promotion and development of OA technologies. These RDE Centers shall be tapped to form part of the OA RDE Network.

Rule 23.2. The RDE Centers shall submit annual reports to the NOAB following the report template to be provided.

Rule 23.3. The DA regional and national laboratories, and the laboratories of SUCs and other research institutions shall be strengthened and capacitated through the upgrading of facilities, capacitating technical personnel, and streamlining of laboratory analysis methods employed in testing organic agriculture produce and products, in support to the implementation of this Act.

Section 24. *Organic Agriculture in the Formal and Non-formal Sectors* – The National Government, through the DepEd and in coordination with concerned government agencies, NGOs and private institutions, shall strengthen the integration of organic agriculture concerns in school curricula at all levels.

Rule 24.1. The DepEd with assistance from ATI and TESDA, shall jointly:

24.1.1. Central Office:

24.1.1.1. Incorporate the philosophy and principles of organic agriculture, its importance, techniques and skills on the practice of organic agriculture in the basic education curriculum and Alternative Learning System (ALS) curriculum preferably translated in Filipino and other local languages.

24.1.1.2. In consultation with organic agriculture practitioners and/or experts, include in their development of teacher training programs a module that would enhance competencies of teachers in the management and instructional delivery of philosophy and principles of organic agriculture, its importance, techniques and skills on the practice of organic agriculture;

24.1.1.3. Include organic farming as one module under the ALS livelihood programs for out-of-school youth (OSY) and adult learners;

24.1.1.4. Include in their development of textbooks, learning and instructional materials philosophy and principles of organic agriculture its importance, techniques and skills on the practice of organic agriculture;

24.1.1.5. In partnership with DA and other concerned agencies and institutions, develop IEC materials on organic agriculture that can be easily understood by students and parents;

24.1.1.6. Establish linkages with DA and NOAB member departments, other concerned agencies, LGUs, NGOs, organic farmer organizations and other concerned stakeholders, and media partners for a nationwide promotion, adoption and practice of organic agriculture.

24.1.2. Regional Offices:

24.1.2.1. Include in their regular planning, monitoring and evaluation of Divisions' activities the integration of organic agriculture in the Divisions' educational planning and implementation of school and ALS curriculum. The Regional Offices shall likewise include in their conduct of M&E, the Divisions' training of teachers and mobile teachers on organic agriculture, localization of instructional and learning materials to include philosophy and principles of organic farming, implementation of ALS programs on organic agriculture, organic agriculture-advocacy activities and others;

24.1.2.2. Include in their provision of support services to the Divisions, technical and financial assistance for the Divisions' implementation of organic agriculture-related activities;

24.1.3. Division Offices:

24.1.3.1. In partnership with the Provincial, Municipal/City agriculturists, the DepEd Division Offices shall include in its implementation the training programs for teachers and mobile teachers, development of training modules on organic agriculture, its importance, techniques and skills in the practice of organic agriculture;

24.1.3.2. Encourage schools and community learning centers (only when appropriate) to establish organic gardens in their areas where children student and learners could practice organic farming;

24.1.3.3. Include in their provision of support to the schools/community learning centers, technical assistance in the schools' implementation of organic agriculture and related activities;

24.1.4. Schools:

24.1.4.1. Schools are encouraged to promote, develop and adopt a holistic program on organic agriculture farming systems and ensure its implementation;

24.1.4.2. Encourage school heads to establish organic gardens that shall showcase organic farming technologies. Schools in urban areas are encouraged to practice organic urban farming technologies;

24.1.4.3. Schools shall offer organic foods in their canteens to enhance the consumption of safe, healthy and nutritious food;

24.1.4.4. Assign one school teacher/mobile teacher preferably the Technology and Livelihood Teacher Coordinator to serve as a focal person on organic agriculture. The focal person shall act under the supervision of the School Head under the guidance of the school governing board;

24.1.4.5. Strengthen linkages with the community, LGUs, local government offices, NGOs, small farmers/fisherfolks, organic farmers'/fisherfolks' organizations, and media partners to implement advocacy strategies that will promote organic farming technologies such as among others regular competitions on Best Practices on Organic Agriculture; exposure or field trips to local organic farms;

24.1.4.6. Tap organic agriculture practitioners and/or experts in organic agriculture to serve as guest lecturers;

Rule 24.2. The DepEd, through its Secretary, shall issue a Department Order that will detail the implementation and provision of budgetary support for these provisions of the IRR.

Rule 24.3. The NOAB shall call upon the CHED, TESDA and other educational institutions to institutionalize the integration of organic agriculture concerns in their curricula and other operational activities consistent with the provisions of this IRR.

Rule 24.4. The TESDA shall ensure that the NOAB and the DA-ATI are in mutual agreement prior to the approval of any competency standards or training regulations relevant to organic agriculture. The NOAB shall endorse to the TESDA Board the competency standards or training regulations for approval.

24.4.1. TESDA shall review the existing training regulations (TRs), competency assessment tools (CATs) and

assessment fees (AFs) on Organic Agriculture Production National Certificate (NC) II.

24.4.2. TESDA shall develop TRs, CATs and AFs for required, new and emerging skills on organic agriculture, both at the national and local (area-based) levels.

Rule 24.5. The TESDA shall issue National Certification on Organic Agriculture to competent individuals.

Rule 24.6. The DA-ATI shall review and revise, as appropriate, existing guidelines for the accreditation of the relevant extension service providers (ESPs) on organic agriculture, provided such ESPs have juridical status and have been duly registered with appropriate regulatory bodies, as sole proprietors, cooperatives, associations and corporations, and the funding thereof will be sourced from the DA and other government agencies. Such accreditation guidelines shall be subjected to the approval of the NOAB.

24.6.1. Only accredited OA ESPs shall be tapped by the government for related group capacity building and organic farming technologies training without prejudice to non-accredited organizations who have been conducting training prior to the passage of this Act. An individual service provider may be tapped for organic agriculture technologies and related training provided that he is either a member of the ESP or appropriately endorsed by such.

24.6.2. The DA-ATI shall continuously undertake appraisal and evaluation of the capability and competence of accredited OA ESPs.

24.6.3. The DA-ATI shall encourage, support and provide continuous learning of all organic agriculture technologies and practices.

Section 25. *Incentives* – The government shall extend incentives for the production and propagation of organic farm inputs by maximizing their use in all government and government-supported agricultural production, research and demonstration programs. Incentives shall also be provided to farmers whose farms have been duly certified as compliant with the Philippine National Standard (PNS). Further, the DA may give cash rewards in recognition of the best organic farm in the country. The DA, the DAR, the DOST, the DILG, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the DepED, the Department of Finance (DOF), the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), and other government leading and non-leading institutions shall also assist organic input producers and organic farmers through the provision of adequate financial, technical, marketing, and other services and resources. These include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Exemption from the payment of duties on the importation of agricultural equipment, machinery and implements as provided under Republic Act No. 9281, which amends Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA);

- (b) Identification by LGUs of local taxes that may be offered as incentives to organic input production and utilization;
- (c) Provision of preferential rates and special window to organic input producers and users by the LBP.
- (d) Subsidies for certification fees and other support services to facilitate organic certification;
- (e) Zero-rated value-added tax (VAT) on transactions involving the sale/purchase of bio-organic products, whether organic inputs or organic produce; and
- (f) Income tax holiday and exemption for seven (7) years, starting from the date of registration of organic food and organic input producers on all income taxes levied by the National Government.

The tax incentives shall be given only to purely organic agriculture entities/farmers and shall be subject to the accreditation of the BAFPS and periodic reporting by BAFPS to the DOF: *Provided*, That the said incentives shall be available only to micro, small and medium enterprises as defined under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9501 or the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

- Rule 25.1. The incentives enumerated in this Section shall exclude item (e) zero-rated value-added tax (VAT) on transactions involving the sale/purchase of bio-organic products, whether organic inputs or organic produce, in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10963 otherwise known as “Tax Reform For Acceleration And Inclusion (TRAIN) Act.”
- Rule 25.2. The NOAB, in collaboration with concerned agencies, shall develop guidelines for the provision of incentives to ensure that the beneficiaries of incentive programs are qualified in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- Rule 25.3. Small farmers/fisherfolks, indigenous people, agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), including cooperatives and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), shall be prioritized in the provision of incentives in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- Rule 25.4. Full subsidies for all organic certification schemes including international certification shall be granted to small farmers in accordance with the guidelines approved by the NOAB. Provided that international third-party certification subsidy shall only be given to qualified PGS groups per item (h) of Section 14 (*Participatory Guarantee System*) of this Act.
- Rule 25.5. Registered organic operators shall be covered under the programs of DA Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), DA Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), subject to the policies and guidelines of the agencies.

- Rule 25.6. The DA-BAFS shall ensure that the lists of certified and registered organic operators are updated regularly and available on its website which shall be linked to the NOAP website.
- Rule 25.7. The Department of Finance (DOF), other concerned agencies and GFIs are called upon to develop or update, as deemed necessary, guidelines in accordance with the provisions of this Act and other existing applicable laws, within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this IRR.
- Rule 25.8. The NOAP-NPCO with the assistance of DA-BAFS and other concerned regulatory agencies shall submit lists of certified and registered organic operators to the DOF for the purposes of this Section.

Section 26. *Appropriations* – The Department of Budget and Management shall include annually in the President’s program of expenditure for submission to and approval by Congress One Billion Pesos (Php 1,000,000,000.00) for the promotion and development of the national Organic Agriculture Program, allocated as follows:

- Thirty- five percent (35%) for shared facilities;
- Twenty-five percent (25%) for seeds development/planting materials and animal’s distribution and feeds for aquaculture, soil amendments and biocontrol agents;
- Twenty percent (20%) for extension and training;
- Five percent (5%) for socialized credit;
- Five percent (5%) for small scale irrigation system;
- Five percent (5%) for research and development; and
- Five percent (5%) for marketing and promotion.

The NOAB is hereby authorized to solicit and accept assistance or facilities in the form of grants from individuals and entities here and abroad, and to utilize these funds and resources for purposes of this Act, subject to the usual budget, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

- Rule 26.1. The DBM shall include annually in the President’s program of expenditure for submission to and approval by Congress One Billion Pesos (Php 1,000,000,000.00) for the promotion and development of the NOAP.
- Rule 26.2. The NOAP shall only fund projects included in the LGUs OA investment plans or roadmaps as well as in other OA plans approved by the NOAB.
- Rule 26.3. All other programs of the concerned agencies, particularly the DA banner programs, shall supplement the NOAP by way of convergence of interventions to NOAP beneficiaries and partners.
- Rule 26.4. All LGUs must allocate at least 50% of their overall agriculture budget to support the NOAP, subject to relevant rules and regulations, and other existing applicable laws.
- Rule 26.5. The NOAB shall allocate funds according to the following breakdown:

- 26.5.1. Thirty-five percent (35%) for shared facilities;
- 26.5.2. Twenty-five percent (25%) for seeds development/planting materials and animal's distribution and feeds for aquaculture, soil amendments and biocontrol agents;
- 26.5.3. Twenty percent (20%) for extension and training;
- 26.5.4. Five percent (5%) for socialized credit;
- 26.5.5. Five percent (5%) for small scale irrigation system;
- 26.5.6. Five percent (5%) for research and development; and
- 26.5.7. Five percent (5%) for marketing and promotion.

Rule 26.6. The NOAB is hereby authorized to solicit and accept assistance or facilities in the form of grants from individuals and entities here and abroad, and to utilize these funds and resources for purposes of this Act, subject to the usual budget, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Rule 26.7. In addition to the prescribed budget for NOAP programs and projects, the DBM shall provide the budget for personnel services and operating expenses of the NOAB and NOAP for the effective and efficient implementation of the NOAP.

Rule 26.8. The DBM shall augment the regular funds of the DA-BAFS, DA-BAI, DA-BFAR, DA-BPI, and other regulatory agencies in order to implement their regulatory functions as provided in this Act and its IRR.

Section 27. *Penal Provisions and Other Penalties* – Any person who willfully and deliberately:

- (a) obstructs the development or propagation of organic agriculture, or the manufacture, production, sale or use of organic agricultural inputs;
- (b) refuses without just cause to extend the support and assistance required under this Act;
- (c) mislabels or claims that the product is organic when it is not in accordance with the existing standards for Philippine organic agriculture or this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months, or a fine of not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a corporation or a juridical entity, the official who ordered or allowed the commission of the offense shall be punished with the same penalty. If the offender is in the government service, he shall, in addition, be dismissed from office: *Provided*, that any OCB found to have issued a certification to a farm or producer established to be not compliant with any of the PNS for organic agriculture or with the provisions of this Act, shall be penalized by the BAFS as follows:

- (1) First offense. Written warning.
- (2) Second offense. Suspension of accreditation.

Rule 27.1. Competent authorities or as directed by the NOAB shall develop specific policies and guidelines to further implement the penal provisions and other penalties of this Act.

Rule 27.2. Any person found to have deliberately sold mislabeled produce and products or with false claims shall be penalized by the concerned competent authorities as provided in this Act and other existing applicable laws.

Rule 27.3. Any OCB found to have issued a certification to a farm or producer established to be non-compliant with the applicable current PNS for OA or with the provisions of this Act, shall be penalized by the DA-BAFS, as per the guidelines approved by the NOAB.

Rule 27.4. Any certified organic operator found to be non-compliant with the applicable current PNS for OA shall be subjected to revocation of their organic certificate by the concerned OCB, as per the guidelines approved by the NOAB.

Section 28. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The NOAB shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act and submit the same to the COCAF. In the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations, the Department of Finance (DOF) shall be consulted in connection with the tax incentive provided under Section 25 hereof.

Rule 28.1. The NOAB shall submit the approved IRR within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act to the COCAF.

Section 29. *Annual Report* – The NOAB shall render an annual report to both Houses of Congress on the accomplishment of the program. A review on the viability of the program shall be made by the concerned agencies after three (3) years of its implementation.

Rule 29.1. Annual reports, to include the work accomplishments and financial statements shall be submitted to OA stakeholders and shall be disseminated in Quad Media and posted on a dedicated website, including the LGUs' information mechanisms.

Rule 29.2. The Commission on Audit (COA) report on this regard shall also be disseminated in Quad Media and posted on the NOAP website, including the LGUs' information mechanisms.

Section 30. *Congressional Oversight Committee* – The COCAF shall be the congressional oversight committee for purposes of this Act. The COCAF shall review and approve the implementing rules and regulations of this act and also perform the following functions:

- (a) Monitor and ensure the proper implementation of this Act;

- (b) Review the proper implementation of the programs on organic agriculture and the use of its funds;
- (c) Review the performance of the NOAB; and
- (d) Such other functions it deems necessary.

Rule 30.1. The COCAFm shall review and monitor the implementation of this IRR.

Section 31. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Rule 31.1. If any section or provision of this IRR is held or declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other sections or provisions hereof shall continue to be in force as if the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

Section 32. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Rule 32.1. All Rules and Regulations or parts of said rules and regulations of pertinent laws inconsistent with this IRR are hereby revised, amended, modified and/or superseded as the case may be by these Rules and Regulations.

Section 33. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.


Rule 33.1. This IRR shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. The UP Law Center's Office of National Administrative Register shall be provided a copy of this IRR.

APPROVED ON _____ AT _____ NATIONAL
CAPITAL REGION, PHILIPPINES, BT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:



WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Date signed: _____

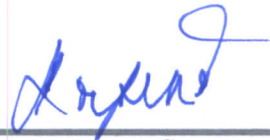
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
In replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-07-21-0332
Received: 07/21/2021 08:30 AM



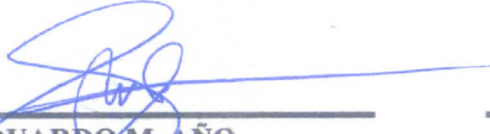
ATTY JOHN R. CASTRICIONES
Secretary
Department of Agrarian Reform
Date signed: _____



ALLEN A. CAPUYAN
Chairperson
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
Date signed: _____



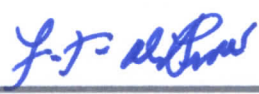
ISIDRO S. LAPENA, PHD., CSEE
Secretary
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Date signed: _____



EDUARDO M. AÑO
Secretary
Department of Interior and Local Government
Date signed: _____



FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary
Department of Health
Date signed: _____



FORTUNATO T. DE LA PEÑA
Secretary
Department of Science Technology
Date signed: _____



RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry
Date signed: _____



Noted by:



DIR. BERNADETTE F. SAN JUAN, CESO II
NOAB Secretary
Date signed: _____