



NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD
Resolution No. 008
Series of 2023

**APPROVING THE AMENDMENTS TO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 20,
SERIES OF 2021, ENTITLED IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE
PROVISION OF INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM –
ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES (PGS-OCBs)**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10068, also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, has been amended by Republic Act No. 11511 in December 2020, and Section 2 thereof states to the effect, that the State reaffirms its policy to promote, propagate, develop further, and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of RA 10068, as amended, established the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP);

WHEREAS, Section 6 of RA 10068, as amended, created the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) as the policy-making body that shall provide direction and general guidelines for the implementation of the NOAP;

WHEREAS, Section 14 of RA 10068, as amended, introduced the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) as a locally focused quality assurance system and shall be the mechanism by which farmers/fisherfolks, their farms/associations/cooperatives shall be certified as engaged in organic agriculture and as producers of organic agriculture products;

WHEREAS, Rule 14.13 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (*DA-DAR-DOH-DILG-DOST-DTI-TESDA-NCIP Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, series of 2021*) of RA 10068, as amended, states that 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;

WHEREAS, the NOAB, in its Resolution No. 22, series of 2021, approved the implementing guidelines on the provision of incentives for PGS-Organic Certifying Bodies (OCBs) and endorsed the same to the Secretary of Agriculture for the issuance of the corresponding circular;

WHEREAS, DA Memorandum Circular No. 20, series of 2021, entitled *Implementing Guidelines on the Provision of Incentives for Participatory Guarantee System-Organic Certifying Bodies (PGS-OCBs)* was signed by former DA Secretary William D. Dar on September 22, 2021;

WHEREAS, the NOAB Technical Working Group, during its 5th meeting held on July 17, 2023, discussed and approved the amendments to encourage more PGS-OCBs to intensify and speed up organic certification nationwide. The NOAB TWG hereby endorses the following amendments for approval of the Board;



1. *Section I. Rationale* - to include this paragraph: **“However, during implementation, queries were raised; thus, amendments were proposed by the stakeholders to refine and improve the clarity of the guidelines.”**
2. *Section II. Definition of Terms* - to include in the definition of small farmer/fisherfolk: **“Bee colonies - less than 500 colonies for stingless bees or less than 200 colonies for honey bees”**
3. *Section III. Coverage and Scope of Assistance*, to wit: **“The provision of cash incentives shall be accessible to qualified PGS-OCBs as assistance to support their operation. The Program shall provide cash incentives amounting to three thousand pesos (PhP3,000.00) to PGS-OCBs for every small farmer certified holding at least five thousand (5,000) sq.m., or a group of small farmers certified with an aggregate land holding of at least five thousand (5,000) sq.m.”**
4. *Section IV. Eligible Beneficiaries/Partners* - to remove provision on execution of a MOA between the DA-RFO and the PGS-OCB.
5. *Section VI. Mechanics of Implementation*, to wit: **“2. Proponents shall submit their Letter of Intent addressed to the DA Regional Executive Director, an accomplished application form, and other documentary requirements to the DA-RFOs;” and “5. Cash incentives shall be disbursed subject to the completion of documentary requirements and availability of funds and shall be based on actual areas certified.”**
6. *Section VII-B. Roles and Responsibilities of DA-RFOs*, to wit: **“3. Accept applications from PGS-OCBs and conduct evaluation and assessment of the submitted proposals;” and “7. Endorse to NOAP the submitted applications of PGS-OCBs for further monitoring, evaluation, and analysis of the implementation of the Incentive Program.”**
7. *Section X. Effectivity Clause*. **This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of publication in a newspaper of general circulation or the Official Gazette, a copy filed with the UP Law Center; and its posting in the Department of Agriculture website.**

NOW THEREFORE, considering the foregoing, this Honorable Board, by virtue of the power vested in it by RA 10068, as amended by RA 11511, hereby **RESOLVES**, as it hereby **RESOLVED**, to approve the above amendments to Memorandum Circular No. 20, series of 2021, Implementing Guidelines on the Provision of Incentives for Participatory Guarantee System – Organic Certifying Body (PGS-OCBs);

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, NOAB Members, DA Regional Field Offices and all other concerned offices be furnished a copy of this resolution for their information and appropriate action.

APPROVED by the NOAB Members present physically and virtually in its 73rd Regular Board Meeting on the 18th day of July 2023, in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD

4th Floor, DA Central Bldg., Elliptical Road,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101 Philippines
Phone: (632) 941-8143 Truck line: (632) 928-8758 loc.: 3320-23
E-mail: secretariat.noab@gmail.com



**NATIONAL
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
PROGRAM**
"Organic agriculture is a healthy culture."

USEC. ZAMZAMIN L. AMPATUAN
Chairperson
Alternate Representative
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Date signed: 09-04-23

ASEC. ELIZABETH N. LOPEZ DE LEON
Vice - Chairperson
Permanent Representative
Department of the Interior and Local
Government
Date signed: _____

DIR. LUCIENNE S. PULGAR
Permanent Representative
Department of Agrarian Reform
Date signed: 07-21-23

USEC. BEVERLY LORRAINE C. HO, MPH
Permanent Representative
Department of Health
Date signed: _____

DIR. JUANITO T. BATALON
Permanent Representative
Department of Science and Technology
Date signed: 08-07-23

USEC. BLESILA A. LANTAYONA
Permanent Representative
Department of Trade and Industry
Date signed: _____

DEP. DIR. GEN. ROSANNA A. URDANETA
Permanent Representative
Technical Education and Skills Development
Authority
Date signed: 08-31-23

EXEC. DIR. CAESAR M. ORTEGA
Representative, Indigenous Farmers
National Commission on Indigenous
Peoples
Date signed: _____



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Organic agriculture is a healthy culture

DR. VICTORIO FERNANDO D. NACPIL

Representative, Luzon Small Farmers
National Empowerment Development
Exchanges (NEDEX)

Date signed: 07-31-23

MR. ANTONIO JESUS C. ORBIDA

Representative, Visayas Small Farmers
PeacePond Farmers Association (PFA)

Date signed: 07-21-23

MR. RENATO D. DELA CRUZ

Representative, Mindanao Small Farmers
Integrated Farming System for Sustainable
Agriculture Farmers Association

Date signed: 08-03-23

GRATIA PLENA SOCIAL ACTION CENTER

Representative, NGO

Date signed: _____

MR. HENRY JAMES M. SISON

Representative, Agribusiness Firm/Private
Sector

Verdant Seasons Farm Management
Technologies Corporation

Date signed: 07-31-23

DR. ADEFLORE G. GARCIA

Representative, Academe
University of Southern Mindanao

Date signed: 07-31-23

HON. ROMMEL C. ARNADO

Representative, LGU
National President of League of Organic
Agriculture Municipalities, Cities and
Provinces of the Philippines

Date signed: _____

MR. JOFFREY FRINAL

Representative, PGS Group
PGS Pilipinas

Date signed: _____

Attested by:

DIR. BERNADETTE F. SAN JUAN, CESO II

NOAB Secretary

Date signed: 09-04-23



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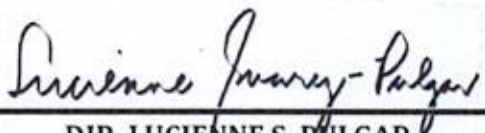
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Chairperson
Alternate Representative
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Date signed: 09-04-23

ASEC. ELIZABETH N. LOPEZ DE LEON
Vice - Chairperson
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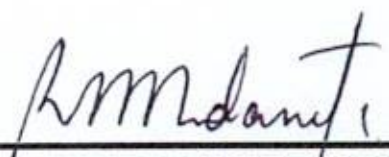
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