



NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD
Resolution No. 009
Series of 2023

**AMENDING THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD (NOAB)
RESOLUTION NO. 31, SERIES OF 2021, ENTITLED "APPROVING THE NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL TARGETS FOR PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS)"**

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10068, otherwise known as the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010", as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, established the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP);

WHEREAS, the NOAB is the policy-making body mandated under Section 6 of the amended Organic Agriculture Act to provide direction and general guidelines for the implementation of the NOAP;

WHEREAS, Section 9 items (b) and (i) of the amended Organic Agriculture Act grant the NOAB the power to formulate plans, projects, and programs, promulgate rules and regulations, and exercise such other powers and functions necessary to carry out effectively the purposes and objectives, for its effective operations and for the continued enhancement, growth or development of organic agriculture in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Section 14 of the amended Organic Agriculture Act provides the recognition of PGS as an alternative certification scheme for organic agriculture;

WHEREAS, NOAB Resolution No. 31, series of 2021, was issued to set the national and regional targets for PGS. The national and regional targets were based on the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) 20-year Strategic Plan for PGS certification;

WHEREAS, there is an annual target of 50 new core PGS groups accredited as Organic Certifying Bodies (OCB) from 2022 to 2041;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) as the agency mandated to grant accreditation to core PGS groups as OCB, submitted to the NOAB, through the NOAP - NPCO, a discussion paper on the the physical targets of accredited PGS Groups as OCB on July 7, 2023;

WHEREAS, the discussion paper outlined the following major challenges during the PGS implementation from FY 2022 to Q1 FY 2023:

1. The number of accreditation-ready core PGS groups was not identified in the 20-year Strategic Plan, particularly in the initial year of implementation. While the regional targets indicated three accredited PGS OCB per year, there is no clear indication of the number of accreditation-ready core PGS groups;
2. There is low awareness of farmer-members on the requirements of the Philippine National Standards (PNS)/BAFS relevant to organic agriculture which resulted in major non-compliances during inspection;
3. The Manual of Operations and Internal Standards of core PGS groups are not yet ready which leads to late application for accreditation; and



4. The 50 annual target of accredited core PGS groups did not factor in the capability of the farmer groups to comply with the certification and accreditation requirements and the current absorptive capacity of the DA-BAFS to conduct its regulatory functions.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that a total of 18 core PGS groups may be accredited as OCB for FY 2023, taking into account the documented average compliance time for certification and accreditation, the current manpower complement of DA-BAFS, readiness of the core PGS group applicants to comply with the major requirements, and pipelined inspections for PGS certification and accreditation until the last quarter of 2023;

WHEREAS, given the baseline data from the first year of implementation in 2022 and the projected number of accredited core PGS groups for 2023, the annual target of 50 accredited core PGS groups is not feasible for FY 2024;

NOW THEREFORE, considering the foregoing, this Honorable Board, by virtue of the power vested in it by RA 10068, as amended, has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to amend NOAB Resolution No. 31, series of 2021, to reduce the annual national target from 50 to a minimum of 18 PGS OCB for FY 2024, based on the baseline data from FY 2022 and FY 2023;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the annual national target for succeeding years will be subject to periodic annual review by the NOAB based on the report of the NOAP Operating Units and the accomplishments of the DA-BAFS;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, Office of the Undersecretary for Regulations, NOAP Operating Units, DA Implementing Agencies, and all 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:

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



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD

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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: _____

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. ADEFLOR 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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