

THE NATIONAL
Organic
AGRICULTURE
PROGRAM

2012-2016

APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD (NOAB)

ACRONYMS

ATI	Agricultural Training Institute
BAFPS	Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards
BAI	Bureau of Animal Industry
BAR	Bureau of Agricultural Research
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry
BSU	Benguet State University
CDA	Cooperatives Development Authority
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
DA	Department of Agriculture
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOF	Department of Finance
DOH	Department of Health
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
ESP	Extension Service Provider
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPA	Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority
FIBL	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
GMOs	Genetically modified organisms
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
ICT	Information and communications technology
IEC	Information, education and communication
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
LBP	Land Bank of the Philippines
LCEs	Local Chief Executives
LGU	Local Government Unit
LTC	Local Technical Committee

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MASIPAG	Magsasaka at Siyentipiko Para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura
MIS	Management Information Systems
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NCSB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NGO	Non-government organization
NOAB	National Organic Agriculture Board
NOAC	National Organic Agriculture Conference
NOAP	National Organic Agriculture Program
NOARDC	National Organic Agriculture Research and Development Centers
OA	Organic Agriculture
OFO	Organic Farmers' Organization
OSFO	Organic Small Farmers' Organization
PAKISAMA	Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka
PCAARRD	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
PCIC	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation
PDAP	Philippine Development Assistance Program
PDCI	Pecuaría Development Cooperative
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PhilMech	Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization
PO	People's organization
R&D	Research and Development
RDE	Research Development and Extension
RFU	Regional Field Unit
RIARC	Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers
S&T	Science and Technology
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
STBF	Science and Technology Based Farms
SUC	State Universities and Colleges
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms	3
Secretary's Message.....	7
Preface	8
Executive Summary	10
1.0 Situation of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines.....	13
1.1 Profile of Organic Farms and Products	13
1.2 Growing Local and Export Demand for Organic Agriculture Products	14
1.3 Issues and Challenges	14
2.0 General Framework	15
2.1 Vision: Moving Away from the Margins.....	15
2.2 Goals and Over-all Objectives.....	15
2.3 Strategies and Key Components	16
2.3.1 Strategies.....	16
2.3.2 Key Components.....	20
3.0 Key Components and Programs	22
3.1 Institution Development and Strengthening.....	23
3.2 Research and Development.....	30
3.2.1 Organic Agriculture Research and Development Initiatives	32
3.2.2 Organic Agriculture Research and Development Component.....	34
3.3 Production and Technology Support.....	38
3.3.1 Genetic Management Support Systems	43
3.3.2 Soil Fertility and Ecosystems' Management Support Systems	46
3.3.3 Rural Industry and Infrastructure Development Management Support Systems.....	47
3.3.4 Alternative Rural Finance for Organic Agriculture.....	49
3.3.5 Organic Product Certification/Quality Control	49
3.4 Extension and Capability Building	51
3.4.1 Establishing Organic Farmer's Organization (OFO)/Organic Farmers' Association (OFA)/Cooperatives.....	53
3.4.2 Capability and Deployment of Organic Agriculture Focal Persons, Para-Agriculture/Farmer Technicians/Service Providers	54
3.4.3 Enhancing the Competence and Continuous Education and Training of Organic Farm Workers	55
3.4.4 Technology Commercialization and Popularization.....	55
3.4.5 Learning Farms and Resource Centers	55
3.5 Promotion, Advocacy and Education	57
3.6 Market Development.....	62
3.7 Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation	66
3.7.1 Baseline and Data-banking	68
3.7.2 Development of M&E Instruments	68

3.7.3 Management Information Systems (MIS)	69
4.0 Implementing Mechanisms	70
4.1 Institutional Development and Strengthening.....	70
4.2 Research and Development.....	72
4.3 Production and Technology.....	73
4.4 Extension and Capability Building.....	74
4.5 Promotion, Advocacy and Education.....	74
4.6 Market Development.....	75
4.7 Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation.....	76
5.0 Way Forward.....	80
Annex 1. Summary of the OA Initiatives by PCAARRD	81




MENSAHE

Itinakda ng Philippine Organic Agriculture Act (R.A. 10068) ang pagbubuo ng isang komprehensibong programa na siyang gagabay sa pagtataguyod at pagpapalaganap ng organikong agrikultura sa Pilipinas. Ito ang National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) na saklaw ang taong 2012 hanggang 2016.

Ang pagbubuo ng NOAP ay pinangunahan ng mga miyembro ng National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) na nagmula sa iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, akademya, maliliit na magsasaka, NGO at pribadong sektor. Ang nilalaman nito ay hinango sa mga idinaos na malawakang konsultasyon sa iba't ibang sektor.

Inilalatag sa NOAP ang pangkalahatang layunin, mga estratehiya at mga programa na magsusulong sa adhikain ng R.A. 10068. Ito ay magsisilbing gabay para sa mga taga-gawa ng mga patakaran, at sa lahat ng nagtataguyod at magtataguyod ng organikong pagsasaka, lalo na ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda.

Sa limang taong saklaw ng NOAP, sama-sama tayong kumilos upang lalong mapalawig ang adbokasiya at ang pagtataguyod ng organikong agrikultura tungo sa isang malusog at masaganang pamayanan, na nag-aaruga sa kalikasan.


PROCESO J. ALCALA
Kalihim
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka

PREFACE

The National Organic Agriculture Program is a collaborative document spearheaded by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) through the cooperation of the various stakeholders of the organic industry, relevant national government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society and people's organizations.

Process in the Formulation of the Plan. Following the signing of the Organic Agriculture Act, a series of activities were undertaken in order to successfully craft the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP). These activities were crucial in developing a holistic, comprehensive and rolling six-year program for the organic agriculture in the country which was approved by the NOAB in March 2012:

- The Technical Working Group (TWG) was created mainly to conduct the formal island consultations. For Visayas, the consultation was held in Bacolod on 01 September 2011, for Mindanao in Davao on 07 September 2011 and for Luzon in Metro Manila on 15 September 2011.
- A workshop of the TWG and NOAB to consolidate the documentation of the formal consultations was held on 24 October 2011.
- Within the months of September to November 2011, formal submissions from Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)¹, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Organic Agriculture Consortium² were included as inputs to the NOAP.
- To consolidate and draft the NOAP, the Terms of Reference (TOR) was prepared for the writer(s).
- During the 8th National Organic Agriculture Congress held in Tarlac last 08-10 November 2011, the TWG presented a progress report and called for additional formal submissions.
- The draft NOAP was presented to the TWG and NOAB for comments on 05 and 06 December 2011, respectively.
- In the months of December 2011 and January 2012, revisions and finalization of the NOAP were done.

The NOAP serves as the guide for the implementation of Organic Agriculture activities under the Department of Agriculture and its implementing units. In developing specific work plans, implementing units are expected to align their activities in accordance to the NOAP components. Likewise, member agencies of the NOAB are also encouraged to refer to this document during their development of similar projects and endeavors on organic agriculture

¹ Translated as "National Confederation of Small Farmers"

² The Organic Agriculture Consortium is composed of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), La Liga Policy Institute (La Liga), Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Sanyu Consultants, Inc., Spread Organic Agriculture in the Philippines (SOAP).

in order to attain a unified and comprehensive action towards a vibrant and sustainable organic agriculture industry in the country. In particular, Local Government Units may use the NOAP as a guide in drafting of Local Organic Agriculture Programs. The NOAP also includes a system for evaluation and monitoring as one of the components and implementing strategies.

Section 1 of the document provides a current status of the organic agriculture industry in the country based on submissions from collaborating agencies and available references. However, a more in-depth baseline survey shall be spearheaded by the NOAB in order to give a more accurate picture of the Philippine Organic Industry.

Section 2 illustrates the general framework of the NOAP including the VISION of the organic industry and identified strategies for its implementation.

Section 3 contains the key components of the program, which identifies the main programs and activities to be undertaken in achieving the vision and objectives of the organic industry.

The last section, Section 4 focuses on the implementing mechanisms which identify the lead collaborating agencies that shall spearhead the programs as outlined in Section 3.

Annex 1 is a summary of the initiatives on Organic Agriculture by PCAARRD prior to the approval of Republic Act 10068.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The signing of Republic Act No. 10068 or more commonly known as the Philippine Organic Agriculture Act on April 06, 2010, is a landmark legislation for the development and promotion of organic agriculture in the Philippines. It is the culmination of long years of development efforts mostly by non-government, community based organizations and private groups pushing for agriculture sector reforms around ecologically sustainable, environment friendly and safer production systems, availability of safer and more nutritious staples and food, and increased farm productivity and income opportunities for the Filipino farmers.

Over-all Philippine agriculture contributes 17 percent to the country's gross domestic product, employing 33 percent of the country's labor force. The sector accounts for more than half or an estimated 66 percent of the country's poorest. The deteriorating condition of the environment has contributed to increasing vulnerability of the agriculture sector particularly to extreme weather events. Predominance of chemical-intensive farming has contributed to at least 33 percent of the country's green house gas emissions.³

Compared to many Asian countries, the organic agriculture sector in the Philippines is still in its formative years. Production of organic agriculture products remains marginal with less than one percent of the country's agricultural land devoted to organic farming. A 2006 study show that there is an estimated 35,000 organic farms in the country with a cumulative production area certified under organic management of 14,140 hectares or 0.12 percent of total Philippine agricultural lands.⁴ However, the available data only capture farms that have been third-party certified and do not reflect the broader population of organic farming practitioners that have not sought third certification.

All data and information point to growing market demand for organic products both at the local and global levels. The domestic organic market in the Philippines has been described as a "niche" market sold mainly in specialty stores and weekend markets in Metro Manila. Based on 2000 data from the Foreign Agriculture Service of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the local organic product market in the Philippines is estimated to be worth USD 6.2 million or PhP 266.7 million.⁵ More recent data from the Philippine Development Assistance Program (PDAP) estimates the local organic product market to be worth between USD 20 million or PhP860 million to USD 30 million or PhP1.3 billion.⁶

³Cabigas and Morala (2011), "Enhancing Labeling, Standards and Certification for Sustainable, Organic and Ecological Agriculture in the Philippines", La Liga Policy Institute

⁴Pearl 2 (2007) "Technical Paper #1: State of the Sector Report – Philippine Organic Products", downloaded from www.philexport.ph, May 5, 2011.

⁵Pearl 2 (2007) "Technical Paper #1: State of the Sector Report – Philippine Organic Products", downloaded from www.philexport.ph, May 5, 2011.

⁶PDAP (n.d) "PDAP as an Institution", downloaded from www.pdap.net, May 5, 2011.

To date, organic agriculture products are slowly penetrating the shelves of large supermarket chains and restaurants due mainly to the broadening demand brought about by growing health consciousness and awareness in the country.

On the other hand, exports of Philippine organic products are estimated to have reached USD 18 million in 2006.⁷ This is small compared to the growing global demand for organic food and beverages estimated to have reached USD 15.6 billion in 2009 increasing, on the average, by over USD 5 billion a year. Major markets for organic food products are the United States followed by the European Union and Japan.

Following the signing of the Organic Agriculture Act (OA Act), a series of activities were undertaken by NOAB in order to craft the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) which was approved in January 2012. These activities were crucial in developing a holistic, comprehensive and rolling six-year program for the organic agriculture in the country even as the OA Act already defines the overall framework, strategies, key components and indicators of its key performance measures.

The NOAP of 2012-2016 envisions the organic agriculture sector contributing to the country's over-all agricultural growth and development, in terms of sustainability, competitiveness and food security, where at least 5 percent of Philippine agricultural farm areas practice organic farming; and, where consumers both national and international increasingly support Philippine organic food products by 2016.

Overall the NOAP aims to promote, propagate, further develop and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines towards a competitive and sustainable organic industry that contributes to:

- a) **Better Farm Incomes and Sustainable Livelihood.** Increased farm productivity, reduced expenses on external farm inputs, better incomes for farmers and reduction of poverty in the rural sector;
- b) **Improved Health.** Protected health of farmers, consumers and the public in general;
- c) **Environmental Protection.** Enhanced soil fertility and farm biodiversity, reduced pollution and destruction of the environment as well as prevention of further depletion of natural resources; and
- d) **Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience to Climate Change.** Improved resiliency to disaster risks and climate change vulnerabilities caused by human interventions and naturally induced hazards.
- e) **Social Justice.** Meeting the basic material needs and improving standard of living for all, upholding human rights, gender equality, labor standards and the right to self-determination.

⁷Cruzada E. (n.d) "Masipag farmers: Beyond putting food on the table", downloaded from www.masipag.org, May 5, 2011.

Key program strategies for the successful NOAP are as follows: **a) Continuous Policy, Legal and Institutional Reforms; b) Public-Private Partnership; c) Participatory/Multi-stakeholder Process; d) Integration/Convergence with Existing Development Initiatives; e) Local-National-Global Relationship; f) Counterparting/Cost-sharing; and g) Ecologically-sound, Socially acceptable and Area-based Interventions.** These strategies are consistent with the thrust of current leadership of the Department of Agriculture (DA) on broad based growth and development, better grass-roots participation in development efforts, adherence to certain quality assurance system, and lastly, further strengthening national-local and global linkages for OA.

Following are the NOAP components: **a) Institution development and strengthening** involving localization of the Organic Agriculture Act; **b) Research and development** for continuing research and upgrading of relevant technologies; **c) Production and technology support** for cultivation and adoption of production and processing methods; **d) Extension and capability building** of key stakeholders as well as for Local Government Units (LGUs), People's Organizations (POs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders including individuals and groups who are willing to do other pertinent activities; **e) Promotion, advocacy and education** of consumers and producers; **f) Market development** and commercialization of organic farming practices; and **g) Results-based monitoring and evaluation** of the program.

Lastly, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the OA Act in Section 5.3 enumerated the key performance measures of the program or its rolling six-year annual physical targets, to wit: a) total area of production; b) population or volume of production and processing; c) market size or market reach; d) number of farms certified on first, second and third party certification system; and e) number of organic agriculture adopters.

Much is expected from the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. As a landmark reform initiative for the country's agriculture sector, a programmatic development intervention is needed to address the challenges and issues facing the sector including positively contributing to the over-all equitable growth and development envisioned in the Philippine Development Plan as well as in the Agri-Pinoy Framework and Strategy of the current leadership of the Department of Agriculture.

1.0 SITUATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Over-all Philippine agriculture contributes 17 percent to the gross domestic product of the country, employing 33 percent of the country's labor force. The sector accounts for more than half or an estimated 66 percent of the country's poorest. The deteriorating condition of the environment has contributed to increasing vulnerability of the broad-spectrum of agriculture sector particularly to extreme weather events. Predominance of chemical-intensive farming has contributed to at least 33 percent of the country's green house gas emissions.⁸

1.1 PROFILE OF ORGANIC FARMS AND PRODUCTS

Compared to many Asian countries, the organic agriculture sector in the Philippines is still in its formative years. Production of organic agriculture products remains marginal with less than one percent of the country's agricultural land devoted to organic farming.

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) estimated that in 2004 only 3,500 hectares in the country were under organic management.⁹ These estimates represent a more than three-fold increase in production areas certified under organic management. Most recent estimates from the IFOAM and FiBL indicate that in 2006 there were 35,000 organic farms in the country with a cumulative production area certified under organic management of 14,140 hectares or 0.12 percent of the total Philippine agricultural lands. It must be noted, however, that the available data only capture farms that have been third-party certified and do not reflect the broader population of organic farming practitioners who have not sought certification.

Most common organic agricultural products, mainly for domestic consumption, include well-milled white rice and semi-polished red and brown rice, vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, some livestock and poultry. In 2009, the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP) estimated the organic rice production area at 7,066 hectares with production volume of 3.8 million kilograms. Production area for organic fruits and vegetables which include papaya, bananas, mangoes and watermelons, was estimated at 119 hectares with production volume of 660,770 kilograms.

On the other hand, organic agriculture products, mainly for export to the United States, Japan and Western Europe, include muscovado sugar, bananas and coconut oil. Again the OCCP estimated in 2009 that the total production area devoted to organic sugar was at 122

⁸Cabigas and Morala (2011), "Enhancing Labeling, Standards and Certification for Sustainable, Organic and Ecological Agriculture in the Philippines", La Liga Policy Institute

⁹It must be noted, however, that there are no consolidated data and information on organic agriculture available for the Philippines. Available information comes from studies and estimates of NGOs and/or private groups.

hectares with production volume of 10,000 kilograms. Area planted with certified organic banana was estimated at 509 hectares and for organic coconut at 64 hectares.

1.2 GROWING LOCAL AND EXPORT DEMAND FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS

All data and information shows the growing market demand for organic products both at the local and global levels. The domestic organic market in the Philippines has been described as a “niche” market sold mainly in specialty stores and weekend markets in Metro Manila. Based on 2000 data from the Foreign Agriculture Service of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the local organic product market in the Philippines is estimated to be worth USD 6.2 million or PhP266.7 million.¹⁰ More recent data from the Philippine Development Assistance Program (PDAP) estimated the local organic product market to be worth between USD 20 million or PhP860 million to USD 30 million or PhP1.3 billion.¹¹

To date, organic agriculture products are slowly penetrating the shelves of large supermarket chains and restaurants due mainly to the broadening demand brought about by growing health consciousness and wellness trends in the country.

On the other hand, exports of Philippine organic products are estimated to have reached USD 18 million in 2006.¹² This is small compared to the growing global demand for organic food and beverages estimated to have reached USD 15.6 billion in 2009 which is increasing, on the average, by over USD 5 billion a year. Major markets for organic food products are the United States followed by the European Union and Japan.

1.3 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The promotion of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines faces many challenges: policy gaps, lack of production support, promotion and awareness activities; fragmented and inadequate research and development, extension and capability building activities; and poor market systems. One of the main challenges in organic agriculture is to be competitive with conventional farming systems.

¹⁰ Pearl Z (2007) "Technical Paper #1: State of the Sector Report – Philippine Organic Products", downloaded from www.philexport.ph, May 5, 2011.

¹¹ DAP (n.d) "PDAP as an Institution", downloaded from www.pdap.net, May 5, 2011.

¹² Cruzada E. (n.d) "Masipag farmers: Beyond putting food on the table", downloaded from www.masipag.org, May 5, 2011.

2.0 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 VISION: MOVING AWAY FROM THE MARGINS

The National Organic Agriculture Program (2012-2016) envisions the organic agriculture sector contributing to the over-all agricultural growth and development of the country, in terms of sustainability, competitiveness and food security, where at least five (5) percent of Philippine agricultural farm areas practice organic farming; and, where consumers both national and international increasingly support Philippine organic food products by 2016.

2.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Overall the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) aims to promote, propagate, further develop and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines towards a competitive and sustainable organic industry that contributes to:

- a) **Better Farm Incomes and Sustainable Livelihood.** Increased farm productivity, reduced expenses on imported farm inputs, better incomes for farmers and reduction of poverty in the rural sector;
- b) **Improved Health.** Protected health of farmers, consumers and the public in general;
- c) **Environmental Protection.** Enhanced soil fertility and farm biodiversity, reduced pollution and destruction of the environment as well as prevention of further depletion of natural resources;
- d) **Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience to Climate Change.** Improved resiliency to disaster risks and climate change vulnerabilities caused by human interventions and naturally induced hazards through diversification and less exposure to external inputs; and
- e) **Social Justice.** Meeting the basic materials needs and improving standard of living for all, upholding human rights, gender equality, labor standards and the right to self-determination.

2.3 STRATEGIES AND KEY COMPONENTS

2.3.1 STRATEGIES

The National Agriculture Organic Program shall be guided by the following sustainability principles and strategies:

a) Continuous Policy, Legal and Institutional Reforms

The success and/or failure of organic agriculture in the country is contingent upon the framing of continuous and appropriate policy, legal and institutional support from the government and through the interventions of the NGOs, POs, organic private business sectors and the farmer. These stakeholders have the ability to create an environment that will enable the OA sub-sector to flourish. Policy and institutional support can come in the form of public investment, guidelines, standards, information, arbitration and other factors that will enable OA actors to increase output and benefit from it. Policy formulation and implementation process will have to be participatory involving stakeholders from the local to national level. Only with an open consultation and the inclusion of all concerned stakeholders will organic agriculture bring its combined benefits.

The government or public sector has an important role to play in this process, notably by providing equal access to information, and using its arbitration capacity. As indicated beforehand, the development of the organic agriculture sub-sector in the country has initially been the result of private actions and interventions for long periods of time. It is thus important for the government to build on these valuable experiences to promote organic agriculture production in the country.

b) Participatory /Multi-stakeholder Process

The involvement of all stakeholders in the decision-making, planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities specifically at the Local Government Unit (LGU) level is important to gain cooperation and support. Thus, project interventions shall adopt participatory methodologies and activities¹³ to ensure the involvement of the concerned entities. The LGUs, POs and other farmer groups will be provided with equal opportunities in availing of assistance and other interventions. This will be ensured through the implementation of projects and programs that have wide reach, adopt economies of scale, and that have numerous forward and backward linkages which enables employment generation and have mass-based benefits and impact.

¹³ Participatory methodologies and activities include conduct of (i) participatory planning/consultation workshops; (ii) community consultations and focus group discussions with beneficiaries concerned; (iii) community-based project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities; and (iv) information dissemination activities

Project interventions shall be undertaken with transparency through the processes of: (i) consultations to inform the stakeholders, (ii) consensus building to ensure acceptability of the interventions by all concerned; (iii) defining clearly lines of responsibility for all project activities; (iv) information dissemination through quad media at the local level; and (v) appropriate and efficient reporting system from local to national level.

c) Public-Private Partnership

For many years, the development and promotion of organic agriculture has been largely a private initiative through the exerted efforts of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and People's Organizations (POs) advocating sustainable farming systems. With the passage of the law on organic agriculture, the public sector provided substantial investment which would support initial private investments and initiatives.

To develop and sustain public-private partnership, there is a need to institutionalize the public-private partnership at the national and local levels, initially with the planning of development programs and projects based on collective works between the public and private sector at the regional level. This will serve as the framework for identifying and prioritizing the specific programs and projects at the local level.

The public investment required in support of the organic sector is not huge; hence, the continuous assistance and participation of the private sector is essential in achieving the goal of promotion, propagation and further development, and implementation of the practice of organic agriculture in the country.¹⁴

d) Integration/Convergence with Existing Development Initiatives

Project interventions shall be integrated and complementary with the existing development thrusts and programs of the national government specifically that of the Department of Agriculture and other related agencies.

In order to optimize resources and reach as many beneficiaries as possible, project assistance shall build on existing initiatives of NGOs, POs, private groups and other farmers who have been into organic farming. Project implementation arrangements shall take into account the need to mainstream and institutionalize the approaches, systems

¹⁴The private sector will be tapped by the public sector to participate to increase production and ensure supply of organic agricultural products and food sustainability by: (i) encouraging them to participate in the provision of adequate and efficient transport and communication services and infrastructure facilities, such as but not limited to assistance in the purchase of specialized transport units for vegetables, fruits and animal products, and improvement of communication networks (cell sites, telephone and others) in the rural areas, (ii) setting up of integrated post harvest handling systems, pre-cooling facilities/ or specialized storage facilities, (iii) establishment/improvement of laboratory testing facilities, (iv) development of programs and projects to rehabilitate watershed areas, rivers and forest, etc. In return, the private sector that will be engaged in project/programs that will promote, enhance and develop of the organic sector should be provided with incentives through tax measures, credit access and fund source at lower rates, among others.

and procedures to be developed so that the stakeholders can assume project activities as their regular functions after project completion.

In doing so, duplication and/or expansion of projects with consideration on lessons learned would become easier to implement in other areas. Also, linkages among project beneficiaries and existing partner-government agencies, other research institutions and NGOs will also be pursued to sustain the provision of the necessary assistance during and after projects are completed.

The initial stages of implementation of specific projects will cover only selected areas then will scale up in other areas in the succeeding years. Project interventions will be provided to LGUs, NGOs, POs and other beneficiaries based on their willingness to participate and provide extensive support given the limited budget.

e) Local-National-Global Relationship

The organic products in the country are sold directly from farms to dealers and/or consumers on a limited scale. Most of the organic produce in small markets are fresh vegetables, poultry and pork products. Although the market for organic food is limited, interest in organic products is growing. Consumers are becoming aware of organic food and have now better access to them. There is also a world trend on healthy food hence organic products are now being sought after. Given the focus of the government and the private sector to promote healthy and safe food, coupled with the expanding organic markets in the country and the world trend on consumption of healthy food, the potential for growth in the domestic market as well as export potential is expected to increase. The country must be able to develop its own system of organic production and marketing to catch-up with the growing domestic and global trend and demand on organic products.

The organic agriculture plans and programs should therefore develop a policy that would take into consideration different types of organic farming activities, particularly in support to farmer's self-reliance and on commercial organic farming. And to further develop and strengthen the interplay between local farmer producers and commercial producers to meet local, national and global demands.

f) Counterparting /Cost-sharing

Counterpart or contribution in the form of labor, cash or in kind shall be required from all project support and assistance. This principle reinforces the need to: a) promote a sense of ownership among the project implementers and beneficiaries; b) allocate resources for operation and maintenance of the projects; and c) ensure sustainability of the interventions even beyond the project life.

g) Ecologically sound, Socially acceptable and Location specific Interventions

The programs and projects to be implemented should contribute to the improvement of the ecological situation. Use of appropriate, socially acceptable and environmentally-sound technologies will be promoted to ensure the regeneration of soil fertility so that the soil remains healthy.

Likewise, activities and programs should take strategic focus on creating climate risk-resilient approaches in harmony with the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change. The NOAP should align its strategies in achieving and building the country's adaptive capacity and increasing the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change.

Generally, these technologies should be applicable to the agro-ecological conditions of the areas and the management capabilities of the beneficiaries; these should also be proven, tested, cost-efficient in promoting sustainable organic agriculture. Implementation and management schemes to be adopted under the project shall be based on the resource endowments, agro-climatic conditions prevailing in the areas, and according to the level of physical, agricultural, institutional and environmental situation and development. Indigenous knowledge systems and practices shall likewise be promoted.

Considering the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and/or any product derived from such organisms shall not be used in organic agriculture.

GM organisms in organic agriculture systems must be completely excluded from cultivation to harvest, transport, storage and processing.

h) Gender Mainstreaming

Women play key roles in agriculture development. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) studies have stated that both women and men play critical roles in agriculture throughout the world by producing, processing and providing the food we eat. Rural women in particular are responsible for the world's production (from 50 to 80% of world

food production); however, despite their contribution to global food security, women farmers are usually underestimated and overlooked in development strategies.¹⁵

Considering the contribution and role of the women in the agriculture sector, gender mainstreaming would be necessary to advance gender equality and equity in the development of plans and programs for organic agriculture. This will involve incorporating gender perspective in all policies, plans, programs and projects to ensure that these have an equitable effect on women and men. To be truly effective, crafting of policies, plans, programs and projects should take into account the differing needs and conditions of women and men in the sector.

The organic agriculture development plan will have to consider policies, plans, programs and projects that will strive for more equal rights, benefits and opportunities, and participation in all activities for both men and women.

2.3.2 KEY COMPONENTS

The law defines the overall framework and strategies of the NOAP and also provides an indication of its key performance measures. Section 5 of the RA 10068 envisions the institutionalization of a comprehensive organic agricultural program with the following components: **a) Institution development and strengthening** involving localization of the organic agriculture act; **b) Research and development** for continuing research and upgrading of relevant technologies; **c) Production and technology support** for cultivation and adoption of production and processing methods; **d) Extension and capability building** of key stakeholders, local government units (LGUs), people's organizations (POs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders including individuals and groups who are willing to do other pertinent activities; **e) Promotion, advocacy and education** of consumers and producers; **f) Market development** and commercialization of organic farming practices; and **g) Results-based monitoring and evaluation** of the program.

Lastly, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the law in Section 5.3 mentioned the key performance measures of the NOAP or its rolling six-year annual physical targets, to wit: a) total area of production; b) population or volume of production and processing; c) market size or market reach; d) number of farms certified on first, second and third party certification system; and e) number of organic agriculture adopters. Figure 1 presents the schematic diagram to show the inter-relation of the various program components.

Aside from the provisions of the law and the IRR, the components as well as most of the programs/projects/activities identified in each component were derived from inputs of

¹⁵Ma. Cecilia B. Alarcon, Integrating Gender in Sustainable Agriculture, A Concept Paper.

different institutions and organizations during various activities, bulk of which came from the island consultations conducted in 2011.

The framework represents a system perspective approach in the implementation of the country's organic agriculture program. The continuous conduct of research and development for the extension and capability building and production and technology support are crucial inputs to the attainment of the goals of NOAP. While promotion, advocacy, education and communication serve as the core strategy to attain amore competitive and sustainable OA market industry supporting the identified components of the NOAP.

At the top of these strategies are the institutional infrastructure and mechanisms, policy support including certification processes which facilitate, govern, and regulate the entire NOAP. The outputs/results of the various interventions along the identified strategies will be monitored using results-based monitoring and evaluation parameters.

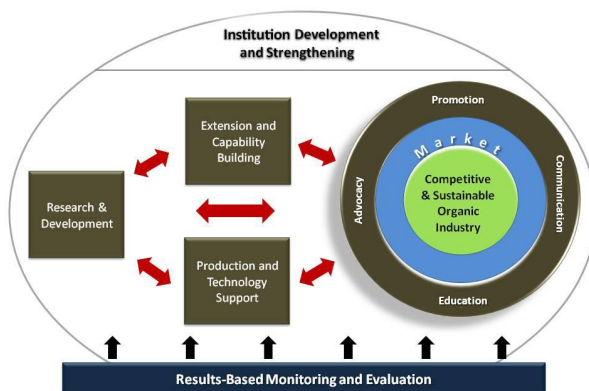


Figure 1: Schematic diagram of the NOAP strategies

3.0 KEY COMPONENTS AND PROGRAMS

The key components of the NOAP identify the main programs and activities to be undertaken in achieving the vision and objectives of the organic industry. To provide a clear and comprehensible guide, a matrix of the relevant provisions of the Organic Agriculture Act and its IRR is outlined prior to the discussion of each component. The matrix also identifies the lead agencies based on the relevant sections of the OA Act.

3.1 INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Policy Formulation on regulation, registration, accreditation, certification and labeling on organic agriculture; d) Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with focus on the farmers and other stakeholders. <p><i>Rule 4.1 BAFPS shall formulate and/or update organic agriculture standards which would cover crops, livestock and aquaculture, organic production, processing and labeling adopting the Department's protocols for standards formulation and adoption, taking into account participatory approaches and emphasis on transparency and accountability.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 4.6 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.</i></p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>BAFPS</p>
<p>Section 9. Powers and functions of the NOAB</p> <p>The NOAB shall have the following powers and functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to develop and promote organic agriculture, production, processing and trade (e) undertake measures for the international recognition of local certification of organic products; (i) promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise 	<p>NOAB</p> <p>BAFPS</p>

<p>such other powers and functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and for the continued enhancement growth or development of organic agriculture</p> <p>Rule 9.1 <i>The Board in coordination with other concerned agencies shall provide technical and networking assistance to expedite the processing of applications of locally accredited certifying bodies for international recognition. Such assistance shall include, but not limited to, proper endorsement of applications to the appropriate accrediting bodies.</i></p> <p>Rule 9.2 <i>The ATI shall immediately adopt 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 submitted to the Board for final review and approval.</i></p>	<p>ATI</p>
<p>Section 10. The BAFPS of the DA shall be strengthened and empowered in its terms of establishing functional divisions and incremental staffing to serve as the national technical and administrative secretariat of the NOAB with the member agencies providing additional staffing support as the need arises.</p>	<p>BAFPS</p>
<p>Section 11. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the BAFPS. The BAFPS, in addition to its existing functions and responsibilities for purposes of this Act:</p> <p>(a) Implement organic agriculture programs and project and activities undertaken for the development and promotion of organic agriculture</p> <p>Rule 11.1 <i>A prior review and update of all existing government issuances, policies and programs shall be undertaken by the BAFPS to harmonize and strengthen them to be consistent with the provisions of this Act. Any recommendations made by BAFPS shall be immediately forwarded to the NOAB for proper action.</i></p>	<p>BAFPS</p>

<p>Section 12. Work Plan. In line with the National Organic Agricultural Program, the BAFPS shall submit to the Board for approval the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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; <p><i>Rule 12. The NOAB shall formulate institutional mechanisms and arrangements that will ensure the effective implementation of the Work and Financial Plan and further assist BAFPS 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 national government agencies and the LGUs as well as the existing network of organic producers and their support organizations, including the small farmers/OSFOs, OFOs, agrarian reform beneficiaries, landless farm workers and indigenous peoples.</i></p>	<p>NOAB, BAFPS</p> <p>LGUs</p>
<p>Section 13. Organic Agriculture and the Protection of the Environment</p> <p><i>Rule 13.1 The policies and principles as embodied in the OAA shall be institutionalized in the MTPDP as a major framework for agricultural, rural and sustainable development</i></p> <p><i>Rule 13.12 The DA shall encourage the DENR to align its guidelines and regulations taking into account the existing indigenous knowledge systems, local community practices and prevailing organic agriculture standards to encourage and promote organic agriculture more specifically for sustainable wildlife product collection in order to prevent overharvesting and ensure sustainability.</i></p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>DENR</p>
<p>Section 14. Local Executive Committees. Every provincial governor shall, insofar as practicable, form a provincial technical committee, and which shall in coordination with and assistance of the BAFPS/DA RFUs will implement</p>	<p>BAFPS</p> <p>DA RFUs</p>

<p>activities in line with the NOAP within each province</p> <p>Rule 14.2 <i>The DA shall assist the local chief executives of LGUs in organizing the provincial/municipal/city technical committee on Organic Agriculture</i></p> <p>Rule 14.3 <i>The said technical committees shall review, consolidate and endorse local organic agriculture plans, programs, projects and activities to the NOAB through the TWGs and follow through their implementation at their levels.</i></p> <p>Rule 14.4 <i>The Local Government Units (LGUs) as front liners in the implementation of the program shall pass provincial and/or municipal ordinances and/or resolutions as appropriate</i></p> <p>Rule 14.5 <i>The Department of Agriculture shall instruct the regional field offices to provide assistance to the local technical committees, work closely with the OA stakeholders, be responsible for integrating the regional organic agriculture plans, programs, project budgetary requirements and in monitoring organic agriculture project implementation in the region. The regional office shall be responsible for designating a focal person.</i></p>	<p>LGUs</p>
<p>Section 15. Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies. The BAFPS is hereby designated and authorized to grant official accreditation to organic certifying body or entity. The BAFPS is tasked to formulate the necessary rules and procedures in the accreditation of organic certifying bodies.</p>	<p>BAFPS</p>
<p>Section 16. Registration of Organic Food and Input Producers. All organic food and input establishments must register with the Director, BAFPS</p> <p>Rule 16.1 <i>All organic input suppliers shall register with the BAFPS within sixty (60) days after effectivity of this IRR,</i></p>	<p>BAFPS</p> <p>FPA</p> <p>BAI</p> <p>BFAR</p>

<p><i>without prejudice to their compliance with the policies and guidelines (i.e. licensing, product testing, etc.) of concerned competent regulatory agencies</i></p> <p>Rule 16.6 <i>The FPA, NSCB, BPI, BAI and BFAR shall review and recast their licensing requirements and procedures for OA products and inputs, to be consistent with the provisions of this Act. The DA and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), however, shall draft their own joint guidelines on the regulation of “processed organic food”</i></p>	<p>BPI</p> <p>NCSB</p> <p>DOH-FDA</p>
--	--

Strong, efficient, technically and administratively competent institutions pushing and backing up the implementation of the organic movement are critical to the success of the NOAP. These institutions include national agencies and their field units, local government units, non-government organizations, people's organizations, civil society and the private/business sector. As defined by the law these institutions form part of the umbrella organizations that should work together towards the attainment of the NOAP goals.

A review of the organizational set-up, functions, mandates and relationships as well as complementation of the various institutions involved in OA (e.g., NOAB, BAFPS, LGUs, DA-RFUs, etc.) will provide a clearer picture of implementation strategies. It has been reiterated several times that NOAP should be localized and to ensure localization, OA should be integrated in the local development plans and integrated at the national and regional programs of the sector.

The strategy for institutional strengthening will also provide a clearer set-up for the certification process to persuade farmers and agri-business owners to aspire for certification. A picture of unity and coherence of functions among concerned institutions will provide credibility to the entire system and process.

In addition, policy that provides the right environment for heightened participation in NOAP especially in forging private-public partnership is another critical success ingredient. Policy interventions and mechanisms that spur development of the market including e-commerce shall be evolved to maximize the potential of the industry.

To successfully implement the promotion, propagation, development and implementation of OA in the Philippines, the unyielding commitment of and collective understanding among a wide number of key stakeholders from government and private organizations is very vital. Policy-makers should be aware and convinced of the need to promote OA technologies and activities. Securing this awareness and commitment requires a comprehensive and doable organic agriculture program.

OA programs currently in the hands of government agencies, private organizations, NGOs and POs or cooperatives take the form of promotional campaigns, training and workshops, sponsorship of study missions and recognition or awards programs.

However, there are still various issues that hamper the implementation of OA, notably the limited access to training and mentoring services regarding organic agriculture technology, lack of trainers' training for organic certification, inadequate productivity enhancement programs, and difficulty in getting Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification, and lack of market-driven production planning. Aside from these, there is the need for sharing and dissemination of best

practices, extensive research and development programs, extending the shelf life and freshness of commodities, cold chain system, greenhouses/common services facilities, and mechanism for price monitoring.

Cognizant of these issues and concerns, the challenge is to design an OA Program that will facilitate support from policy/decision makers in both government agencies and private organizations, and provide the strategies to ensure widest dissemination of OA technologies across all sectors of society.

In order to achieve a stable and progressive program and to institutionalize organic agriculture, this program component aims to:

- a) Establish partnerships among concerned institutions and individuals for a comprehensive and unified OA Institutional Development Program implementation;
- b) Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of OA Institutional Development Programs; and
- c) Provide policy support for the specific key programs.

Effective implementation of OA programs and plans will be achieved through effective coordination and networking among appropriate national government agencies and LGUs as well as existing networks of organic producers and their support organizations including the small farmers/Organic Small Farmers' Organizations (OSFOs), Organic Farmers' Organization (OFOs), agrarian reform beneficiaries, landless farm workers and indigenous peoples.

As such, coordination mechanisms can be categorized into the following:

- a) **Strategic partnerships.** This responds to the need to establish linkages and network with organizations. It will also facilitate complementation and coordination of OA programs and activities.

The NOAB through its Chairman (DA) shall forge Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with the Leagues of Provinces, Cities/Municipalities and other concerned sources of official development assistance (ODA) funds and negotiate with the members of the Congress (Senate and House of Representatives) for fund sources for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NOAP.

- b) **Policy advocacy and information campaign on OA.** Strategic partnerships with other agencies will be formed to unify efforts to raise OA awareness. Training programs, conferences and other information drives shall be undertaken to increase awareness on OA.

3.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>Section 20. 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 Interior and Local Government (DILG), the strategic agriculture –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.</p> <p><i>Rule 20.1 BAR shall create and/or strengthen a Unit that will handle the overall planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Organic Agriculture Research Program following the bottom up participatory approach.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 20.2 BAR shall establish and maintain a database and information system on Organic Agriculture Research and Development Program.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 20.3 An interagency committee shall immediately be created and chaired by BAR with members from concerned departments (i.e. DAR, DOST, DepEd, CHED, DILG, DoE), SUCs, alternative learning institutions, NGO research service providers, organic small farmer organization and other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that will oversee the implementation and monitoring of national RDE program on organic agriculture and provide relevant recommendation during the implementation process to the NOAB</i></p>	<p>BAR as lead</p> <p><u>Cooperating Agencies:</u></p> <p>DAR</p> <p>DOST</p> <p>DepEd</p> <p>DILG</p> <p>SUCs</p>

<p>Section 21 Creation of the Organic Agriculture RDE Network. An organic agriculture RDE network shall be organized by the BAR, composed of research and educational institutions, LGUs, non-government agencies and the recognized association or organic fertilizer manufacturers and distributors, agricultural engineers, agriculturists, soil technologists, farmers group and or associations.</p> <p><i>Rule 21.1</i> The NOAB in collaboration with BAFPS, BAR, and PCARRD shall serve as the data information center and shall integrate and disseminate these data through electronic and other means to interested stakeholders through the existing RDE Organic Network Website</p> <p><i>Rule 21.2</i> The BAR of the DA and PCARRD of DOST through their RDE network shall identify, prioritize and implement through its collaborating agencies research projects and related activities on organic agriculture..</p>	<p>BAR</p> <p>PCARRD</p> <p>BAFPS</p> <p>LGUs</p>
<p>Section 22 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</p> <p>Rule 22.2 National, Regional, provincial and Organic Research and Extension Programs shall be formulated, organized, planned, implemented, integrated and strengthened from existing research and extension programs of the RDE centers of the DA, DOST, DENR, SUCs, LGUs and organic farming community based learning/training centers.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DOST</p> <p>DENR</p> <p>SUCs</p> <p>LGUs</p>

To maintain continuous improvement in the areas of production and technology support as well as in the delivery of extension services and implementation of capability building programs, research and development needs to be intensified. The Pearl 2 study calls for improvement in packaging of organic products and other logistical requirements (e.g., transportation, storage and shelf life) to compete globally, advancement of technology to ensure quality and safety of organically produced crops, livestock, poultry, and aquatic resources. Moreover, interventions that assist the installation of quality and environmental management systems to comply with international standards should also be supported.

Equally important to R&D in technologies are research studies with objectives to develop the market industry-- commodity, information and capital flow in an efficient and effective manner, and to address the dearth in data and information to provide the complete picture of organic agriculture in the country. Baseline research studies are necessary to effectively monitor the progress of the NOAP and evaluate its effectiveness after several years of implementation.

In addition, participation and the role of farmers in the entire program should not be limited to just receiving the technology or as mere beneficiaries; they, too, should become implementers and partners in the conduct of research. More often than not they have good practices in farming and indigenous ways which, if documented, can become a wealth of knowledge that can aid or support scientific research. Farmers should participate in locally-based, applied field research; they should be given proper guidance, training, institutional and resource support to implement scientific methods in their organic farming operations. In so doing, they should influence others to apply tried and tested technologies to increase the productivity of their organic farm lands.

3.2.1 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES¹⁶

In 2009, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) in coordination with the Regional Field Units, particularly the Regional Technical Directors and the Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARC) launched a study, "Gap Analysis on the R&D of Organic Agriculture: Focus on Organic Fertilizers" with the following objectives: (a) review past studies/literature on organic fertilizers in the Philippines; (b) compile literature on organic fertilizers, past and present as well as research development gaps into a compendium for reference purposes; and (c) conduct gap analysis on organic fertilizer R&D. The highlights of the project showed 714 completed and on-going research studies on organic agriculture conducted by the state universities and colleges (SCUs), DA-Regional Field Units (DA-RFUs) and different research institutions in the country. Most of the research conducted focused on evaluating the effects of

¹⁶ Also refers to research, development and extension initiatives

potential organic fertilizers on the growth and yield of plants. While several studies were on assessing the efficacy of potential bio-pesticides for pest and disease control, and the use of various organic materials for plant propagation, breeding and variety screening, storage and processing. Only a number of studies were related to organic livestock and poultry production. Community-based assessment of the impact and adoption of organic agricultural practices were also conducted.

After the signing of the Organic Agriculture Law, the BAR again initiated, in October 2010, a conference-workshop on “Gap Analysis on the R&D of Organic Agriculture: Focus on Organic Fertilizer”. The workshop was participated by representatives from various D-RFUs, SUCs, NGOs and other government agencies. The output of the workshop identified issues and concerns relevant to organic agriculture.

Based on a series of consultations, seminar-workshops and key inputs from the R&D institutions, academe and the NGOs in 2011, the BAR formulated “Researchable Areas on Organic Agriculture RDE for 2012-2016”. These Organic Agriculture RDEs were divided into basic and applied research with focus on the following: (a) food processing; (b) livestock production; (c) crops, soils and management; and (d) cross cutting areas.

Similarly, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) initiated a consultation workshop on organic agriculture development of OA Science and Technology (S&T) framework as early as 2007. National R&D programs on organic vegetables, muscovado sugar R&D for Western Visayas, organic coffee R&D for the Cordillera Region and S&T based forms on organic agriculture were funded, monitored and evaluated. Five capability building and linkages were conducted from 2006-2009 and PCAARRD was able to establish S&T based information, education and communication (IEC) materials. To create awareness understanding and knowledge about OA in the Philippines, technology transfer and forum series were conducted through PCAARRD, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and other agencies.

A milestone for PCAARRD is the launching of the Philippine Organic Agriculture Information Network (Phil-Organic). This is a web-based information system launched to provide data/information to various stakeholders in the country, facilitating sourcing, build up delivery and exchange of information among stakeholders.

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards (BAFPS) initiated a series of consultation workshops participated by both public and private stakeholders

involved in organic agriculture during the first half of September 2011 to determine problems, constraints and concerns faced by the sector and to consequently recommend solutions to the identified problems, constraints and concerns. These consultations with various stakeholder including farmers' groups/cooperatives, NGOs, organic agri-business sector, academe, government agencies and other sectors engaged in organic agricultural activities, happened in Manila for the Luzon island, Bacolod and Davao for the Visayas and Mindanao islands, respectively. The participants raised the following R&D concerns: (a) lack of consolidated organic agriculture data and information; (b) piecemeal approach to R&D; (c) limited research on OA/organic products/organic inputs in the Philippine setting;¹⁷ and (d) inadequate market information system.

After the BAFPS consultation workshop, the BAR being the lead agency for organic agriculture research, conducted a follow through workshop in September 2011 which focused on planning and project proposal preparation on research activities under organic agriculture from 2011 to 2016. The consultation resulted with identified problems and constraints, and the corresponding researchable areas/programs, expected outputs, support required to R&D and other programs, and the possible implementing agencies to undertake the activities. A wide array of research and development projects, studies and activities were identified and consolidated as a result of the forum.

3.2.2 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT¹⁸

Adequate and appropriate data and information is vital for the development of the organic agriculture sector. To facilitate the expansion of the OA sector and also to increase production capacity, new information and technologies including indigenous knowledge should be made readily available to the farmers and other stakeholders. Although many resource-conserving organic production technologies and practices are currently being used in the country, the total number of farmers using them is still relatively small. Lack of knowledge and poor public awareness of organic and sustainable agricultural techniques is often a limiting factor in the spread of organic production.

In addition, lack of knowledge and information about organic agriculture among consumers, government bureaucrats and other influential actors in educational and research institutions also leads to poor appreciation of the potential for organic agriculture. Thus, in order to attain the objectives of improving organic agriculture

¹⁷Researches such as participatory research, collaborative research, station-based research, comprehensive research, research forum, compendium of research.

¹⁸ Also refers to Organic Agriculture Technology Transfer; can execute extension activities/functions.

research and development, the following must be provided emphasis in the implementation of the organic agriculture program:

a) *Research and Development Centers organized and established*

The National Organic Agriculture R&D Center (NOARDC) will be established by 2012 with provision of adequate facilities, equipment and materials, complemented with efficient manpower. The guidelines for the establishment and organization of the regional R&D centers shall be completed by 2012, including delineation of other stakeholders' participation and responsibilities in its operation and management. Regional R&D centers will be established by 2014.

b) *New Technologies Disseminated and Adopted by Farmers*

As mentioned beforehand, the BAR has initiated a series of activities to identify problems, gaps and recommendations for the development of the organic agriculture R&D programs and plans including a listing of researchable areas under organic agriculture. Using the framework initially set up by BAR in collaboration with other R&D institutions, NGOs, and the academe, the guidelines including systems and procedures in the selection and prioritization of research activities¹⁹ to be undertaken on a yearly basis will be completed in 2012. By 2016, farmers' improved access to organic agriculture information, data and new technologies will increase adoption at the field level.

In addition, PCAARRD's *Technogabay* Program included Science and Technology Based Farms (STBF) as one of the modalities to enhance technology utilization and to ensure that S&T outputs are used by rural enterprises to improve productivity and profitability.

c) *User-friendly Database and Information System on OA in Place and Accessible to all OA stakeholders*

Inventory survey and mapping of relevant information on OA will be completed by 2012. And this data/information will be the foundation for the establishment of the database and information system that will be operational by the early part of 2013.

¹⁹ Research and development on product development or enhancement, input research, technical data research and information, organic feed formulation for poultry and livestock, natural pest and disease management, etc., including publication not only by government institutions but also by private groups

A crucial element of this sub-component is the establishment and management of a database and information system on organic agriculture research and development programs and projects (research studies conducted, completed and on-going with complete information on results, availability, efficiency and safety, etc.).

Another activity is the establishment and maintenance of a database on accredited supply chain players for organic agriculture which shall include local and national growers, sellers, producers, establishments, input suppliers and other who are into organic farming and development. The database may include other data/information including but is not limited to indigenous food and food preparation categorized by province, location of organic farms/establishments for field visits and institutions, colleges and universities into organic agriculture activities.

d) Information, Education and Public Awareness Program on Research Completed and Continuing Activities

Results of research and data generation should reach the farmers and consumers through several forms of technology such as website and communication networks. Farmers and consumers should be continually informed and educated on how organic products can be recognized, what practices and technologies are acceptable in organic farming, and what benefits can be expected and other relevant information.

Through the partnership and initial activities of the PCAARRD funded program “Socio-economic and policy support towards enhancing the organic vegetables industry in the Philippines”, a sub-program of its National R and D Program on Organic Vegetables, baseline information on the socio-economic, bio-physical, technical and institutional environment affecting organic vegetables were generated. These information will serve as inputs to the wide scale survey in 2012 to be updated by 2015.

e) Completion of National Survey of Organic Production by 2012 and Updating by 2015

The Organic Production Survey comes in direct response to the growing interest in organic products among consumers, farmers, businesses and others. This is an opportunity for organic producers to share their voices and help ensure the continued growth and sustainability of organic farming in the country. The survey will look at many aspects of organic farming during the 2011 calendar year –

from production and marketing practices, to income and expenses. It will focus not only on operations that are currently engaged in organic production, but also on those making the transition to organic agriculture. The results will help shape future decisions regarding farm policy, funding allocations, availability of goods and services, community development and other key issues. In addition, the information can help producers make informed decisions about the future of their own farming operations.

f) Indigenous Knowledge Compiled in 2013 and Disseminated Continuously Thereafter

An important local input in organic farming is the compilation and dissemination of people's own knowledge. Local people are experts on the plants, animals, soils and ecosystems surrounding them. Organic agriculture draws on this wealth of knowledge, and therefore should encourage local people to use it, and promote what works. This shall also include research on retrieval of indigenous seeds and livestock (rice, vegetables, plants, livestock, etc.) for reproduction and dissemination.

g) Strengthened and Supported Private Sector Participation in Research Activities

Guidelines and incentive systems, and implementing mechanisms shall be formulated to encourage the promotion and participation in research activities on production, preservation and packaging of organic products and materials of successful farmers and practitioners, including the documentation and the dissemination of outputs of successful practices.

h) Existing Farms of Organic Practitioners Tapped as Learning and Research Centers for Participatory Activities by 2014

A strategy shall be developed to transform existing farmer practitioners' farms as research and learning centers so that by 2016, provinces will have farmer research and learning centers. Instead of developing new demonstration farms, existing farms shall be enhanced with provision of simple farm machineries, tools and equipment, sheds for learning sites within the farm, support to production of required seeds, fertilizers and natural pesticides, additional training, etc.

3.3 PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>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... (b) research, development and extension ...; (c) promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other appropriate farm inputs, and (d) implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with focus on the farmers and other stakeholders</p> <p><i>Rule 4.3 A strategic and sustainable organic agriculture investment plan for support facilities, equipment and processing plants shall be formulated based on the need of such facilities in local communities</i></p> <p><i>Rule 4.4 Commercialization of biological and organic inputs such as fertilizers or biological plant nutrition, plant livestock/aquaculture protection and pest management products shall be promoted and encouraged taking into consideration the indigenous knowledge, local resources and practices and the science and technology based approaches in the communities. Such products shall comply with the requirements of the updated and/or reformulated standards/criteria of the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture</i></p>	
<p>Section 13 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 an 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</p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>DENR</p> <p>LGUs</p>

<p>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</p> <p>Rule 13.2 <i>The adoption of organic agriculture through the implementation of NOAP projects and activities shall consider strategies to promote the low carbon development path. Provisions for “Carbon Credits” in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol and other guidelines issued by the NOAB shall be established</i></p> <p>Rule 13.5 <i>Programs and activities for the application, practice and adoption of organic agriculture throughout the country shall give due recognition and importance to reforestation activities and undertakings</i></p> <p>Rule 13.6 <i>Organic agriculture programs, projects and activities shall give focus on the proper disposal and recycling of wastes involving the local waste management of LGUs, entrepreneur and private entities for the production of organic fertilizer in accordance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Sanitation Code of the Philippines .</i></p> <p>Rule 13.8 <i>The DA, with the cooperation of the DENR and the LGUs should ensure the mitigation of seepages and run-offs from dumpsites and mining activities pursuant to the guidelines and standards outlined in the OAA, and consistent with these rules and all other related enactment</i></p> <p>Rule 13.11 <i>The concept and practice of organic agriculture shall be supported for building the capacity for enterprise development consistent with the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)</i></p>	
--	--

<p><i>Enterprise Development Project and other related programs of the government</i></p>	
<p>Section 21 Creation of the Organic Agriculture RDE Network. An organic agriculture RDE network shall be organized by the BAR, composed of research and educational institutions, LGUs, non-government agencies and the recognized association or organic fertilizer manufacturers and distributors, agricultural engineers, agriculturists, soil technologists, farmers group and or associations.</p> <p><i>Rule 21.2 The BAR of the DA and PCARRD of DOST through their RDE network shall identify, prioritize and implement through its collaborating agencies research projects and related activities on organic agriculture, while the BPI, PhilMech and such other agencies shall primarily focus its assistance on the development of organic farming systems pursuant to their organizational mandates. The ATI, RFUs, LGUs, organic small farmer organizations and NGOs providing RDE services, in close partnership with local and community based service providers, shall undertake technology transfer and related extension activities.</i></p>	<p>BPI</p> <p>PhilMech</p>
<p>Section 24. 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 to the Philippine National standards (PNS). Further, the DA may give cash reward in the recognition of the best organic farm in the country. The DA, the DAR, the DOST, the DILG, the DTI, the DepEd, the DOF, the LBP and other government lending and non-lending institutions shall also assist organic input producers and organic farmers through the provision of adequate financial, technical, marketing and other services and resources.</p> <p>(a) Exemption from the payment of duties on the importation of agricultural equipment, machinery and implements...;</p> <p>(b) Identification by LGU of local taxes that may be offered as incentives to organic</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DTI</p> <p>DOST</p> <p>DILG</p> <p>DepEd</p> <p>DOF</p> <p>LBP</p> <p>PCIC</p>

- 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 exemptions 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.

Rule 24.1 *In line with the provisions of this Act, the Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue and other government financing institutions are called upon to review and align their existing guidelines or issue new ones with a view of granting incentives and other benefits to the organic agriculture farming system*

Rule 24.2 *The concerned agencies shall issue their respective guidelines for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.*

Rule 24.3 *The following incentives shall be given only to organic agriculture entities/farmers registered with BAFPS and those which are classified as micro, small and medium enterprises. The BAFPS shall annually provide the DOF a list of qualified entities/farmers and enterprises among others.*

Rule 24.4 *The LGUs are encouraged to provide incentives to organic input production either through reduction of amount of local taxes, fees and charges imposed or exemption on business taxes. The LGUs through its Sanggunian shall determine the incentives, the amount and duration*

of exemption to be granted.

Rule 24.5 *The LGUs together with GFIs shall put up and provide guarantee funds for small organic farmers, artisanal fisherfolks and indigenous peoples.*

Rule 24.6 *Duly certified organic farms shall be provided subsidy of the total certification cost subject to the guidelines of the NOAB*

24.21 *The BAFPS, BIR, and BLGF-DOF shall, within six months from issuance of this provision upon due consultation with concerned organic farming stakeholders. This guideline shall outline provisions wherein businesses can avail the incentives particularly the zero rated vat for bio-organic products and income tax holidays.*

24.22 *Organic farms shall be covered under the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) guidelines*

Proper production and technology support is vital in sustaining the interest of farmers and their eagerness to upscale and/or shift to organic farming. Hence, this program component shall address the demand for scientifically-based methods, techniques, technologies and support systems for organic production, ensuring its accessibility, availability and affordability. The necessary elements to attain sustainable development of organic agricultural production as indicated in the matrix include the interplay of the following:

- Genetic Resource Management Support Systems
- Soil Fertility and Ecosystems' Management Support Systems
- Rural Industry and Infrastructure Development Management Support Systems
- Alternative Rural Finance for Organic Agriculture
- Organic Product Certification/ Quality Control

3.3.1 GENETIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Genetic resources (i.e., seeds, breeds of poultry and livestock, and fishery resources) for production should be available in the community seed banks and other breeding centers within the DA, DOST and other institutions like the SUCs and NGO facilities. Such mechanism can be facilitated by the Organic Agriculture Local Technical Committee(s) between the local government units and the organic farming organizations and cooperatives.

On the other hand, indigenous seeds, poultry and livestock breeds, fishery resources and other locally available genetic resources, inbreeds and other naturally selected varieties of plants and animal stocks are encouraged for adaptability in the local situation.

To address limited genetic resources, the DA may introduce external sources of such upon substantial testing and validation of its adaptability in the local situation and the organic farming systems. A community-based seed, poultry and livestock breeds, and fishery resources banking system and other mechanism by which the small farmers will actively participate is a priority.

Genetic resources must always be protected from contamination of GMOs. Thus, the program must include formulation of necessary rules and procedures to preserve and ensure the integrity of genetic resources for use in the organic agriculture industry.

Other support activities that may be considered under this project sub-component are:

- a) Conduct of on-field research on commodities that are locally based and indigenous to promote self-sufficiency of quality seeds and planting materials in local production areas;
- b) Encourage and provide technical support to farmers, LGUs and other private sectors who are into production of quality organic seeds (rice, corn and other crops), planting materials, brood stocks, fingerlings and livestock (poultry, small ruminants, cattle, carabao, etc.) to ensure production and availability;
- c) Provide loan/credit access and incentives to farmers and other private groups in the production of organic seed banks for rice, corn, vegetables, other commodities, and poultry and livestock breeds including indigenous breeds;
- d) Assistance to research on organic seeds and poultry and livestock breeds;
- e) Accreditation of producers of organic seeds, and poultry and livestock breeds; and
- f) Periodic monitoring of producers of organic seeds, and poultry and livestock breeds.

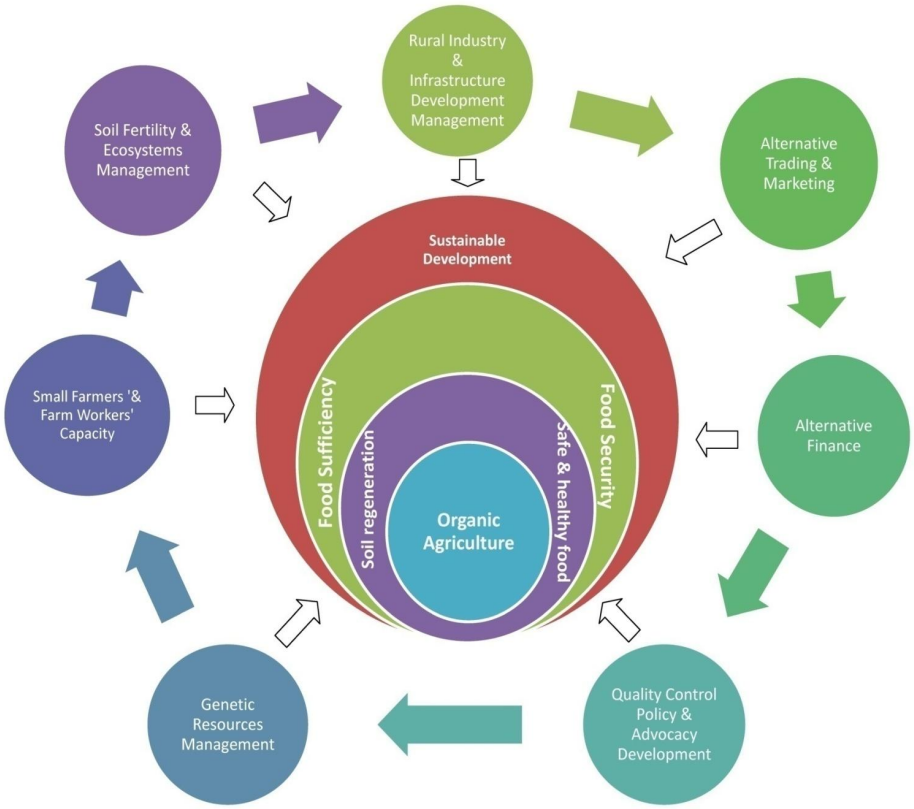


Figure 2. Organic Agriculture Production Support Systems

3.3.2 SOIL FERTILITY AND ECOSYSTEMS' MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Soil health and a balanced ecosystem through the establishment of integrated farm nutrient cycling systems are central to organic farming system. Availability of organic farm inputs/fertilizers and feeds are keys to promotion and adoption of organic agriculture. Accordingly, farm-based fertilizer production is encouraged to ensure affordability and quality of farm inputs. Likewise, cultivation of indigenous micro-organisms, compost and other locally produced organic fertilizers to improve soil fertility.

To encourage farmers, producers and other private groups in the production of organic inputs needed to enhance soil fertility, incentives like low interest loans, partial government subsidy, marketing and promotion, etc. shall be promoted.

Certified commercial organic fertilizers can also be used as needed. All commercial organic fertilizers must be certified by accredited certifying bodies.

Another element that should be considered in organic production is the availability of feeds for poultry, livestock and aquaculture which should be locally produced based on the availability of organic raw materials. Private groups, farmers, and institutions are encouraged to establish and produce seeds/seedling for forage, feed lots to plant forage crops, and to plant/propagate/produce other raw materials (e.g., azolla, duckweed, etc.) to ensure continuous supply of affordable and accessible materials for feeds.

The DA, through its bureaus and agencies and in partnership with LGUs, NGOs and private groups, business groups should provide support to include among others:

- a) Access to low cost equipment and machinery for the production of inputs and fertilizers (shredders, composting enhancers, etc.);
- b) Inventory of indigenous plants and other materials within the area/community that will be used to produce inputs, fertilizers and feeds;
- c) Provision of appropriate technology in the preparation and formulation of inputs and feeds, and propagation of raw materials through training, demonstration, field visits, etc.;
- d) Provision of training and capability building activities for farmers on pest and disease management through the ecosystem and natural systems approach to enable them to manage pests and diseases using local indigenous materials.

- e) Establishment of Organic Input Centers in strategic areas to include demonstration area for input processing, raw material propagation, and to showcase different raw materials. These centers are not only for selling of finished and processed organic inputs and feeds but will also serve as source of raw materials for the preparation of organic inputs and feeds. Hence, these centers shall address the problem in lack or non-availability of organic inputs and raw materials.
- f) Provide loan/credit access and incentives to farmers and other private groups in the production of organic inputs and feed, including promotion thereof.

3.3.3 RURAL INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Heightened promotion and establishment of facilities, equipment and processing facilities would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic products, organic fertilizers and other inputs. Physical infrastructure development should focus in addressing the identified bottlenecks and gaps in organic agriculture during pre and post harvest handling, processing, packaging and value adding activities. Collaboration among existing line agencies should be harnessed for effective and efficient provision of services. The sub-component on infrastructure development management support systems include:

a) Pre and Post Harvest Facilities

- Provision and access to pre and post harvest tools and equipment (weeders, tractors, shredders, mixing equipment, etc.) to smallholder farmers by introducing innovative financing schemes and by tapping private sector participation and government financial institutions;
- Establishment of demonstration farms and community-based learning centers that will showcase production technologies, farming systems and well-established practices taking into account climate change adaptation measures, and eventually opening up the path towards holistic, diversified and integrated systems. As much as possible, the program should tap existing farmers' field schools (FFS) and farms of OA practitioners as venues for information exchange and showcase of organic agriculture technology. Support to the demonstration farm of practitioners shall be provided in terms of provision of necessary equipment, tools, inputs and other necessary facilities, and further technology training to make the demonstration farm effective and appropriate as demonstration/learning center in the area.

- Construction, installation and rehabilitation of pre and post harvest facilities (e.g., drying, milling, storage and processing facilities, greenhouse, packing house, pre-cooling facilities, laboratory testing facilities, training and demonstration facilities, etc.) to reduce losses, add value and ensure quality and safety of the organic crops, livestock and fishes through government funds, private initiatives, NGOs, ODAs, soft loans, counterparting and other innovative financing schemes.
- Assistance to producers, growers, cooperative organizations and exporters in the mechanization of harvest operations of the products (from sorting, grading, cleaning operation, packaging, storage, up to transporting).

b) Processing, Packaging and other Value Adding Activities

Processing and packaging facilities should be established either by the government or through public-private partnership.

c) Physical Infrastructure System

Public investments on common infrastructure facilities needed to boost production are also vital in improving organic agriculture production. This infrastructure facility includes irrigation, farm-to-market roads and bridges, and ports.

- Irrigation systems should be designed, rehabilitated and managed to prevent water contamination from toxic substances. The farmers' irrigators associations must be strengthened as a primary group to ensure appropriate management of the irrigation systems aligned with organic agriculture.
- Establishment of small water impounding dams, rain catching system/rain collectors and shallow tube wells that are cost effective and sustainable in area specific locations particularly in rainfed and upland areas, and areas where irrigation system is limited and/or not available.
- With the present ecosystem and environment, and for the long term sustainability of the irrigation systems, projects to be implemented should protect, rehabilitate and maintain watershed areas, rivers and forest. These initiatives should be undertaken in partnership with the other government agencies like the DENR and LGUs, private groups, and NGOs;
- Construction, repair and/or rehabilitation of pertinent infrastructures to boost organic agriculture production and agri-business endeavours, such as farm to market roads, bridges, ports and communication system to make the market accessible to the farmers and/or to the buyers/consumers. The LGUs should

allocate funds for the maintenance of these infrastructures, particularly for farm to market roads to be continually passable and accessible at all times.

3.3.4 ALTERNATIVE RURAL FINANCE FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

a) Production Loan Portfolio for Organic Agriculture

The Land Bank of the Philippines and other financial/lending institutions shall allocate substantial funding and open loan windows for organic agriculture production and other organic agriculture related industries and/or enterprises. The requirements and interest rate should be fair and appropriate for small farmers. To facilitate easy access of the program, the farmers are encouraged to organize themselves into clusters and groups, associations and/or cooperatives.

b) Insurance System for Organic Agriculture

Insurance coverage will be provided to organic crops, poultry and livestock, and fisheries particularly during the conversion period of their farms from conventional farming to organic farming.

3.3.5 ORGANIC PRODUCT CERTIFICATION/QUALITY CONTROL

a) Third Party Certification

Given the limited number of existing organic agriculture certification bodies and inspectors, there should be trained inspectors from among farmers and CSOs and/or additional accredited certifying bodies. The government may support enhancement of the capability of local certification bodies to facilitate creation of additional certification bodies. The NOAB's Secretariat/BAFPS should build a database and registry of all the certified inspectors and accredited certifying bodies.

b) Second Party Certification or Participatory Guarantee System of Certification

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of certification is a system by which the group or its members do certification using their own standards and inspection systems. The IRR of the OA Act specifies that this kind of certification is allowed during the two-year transition period. PGS can be accepted beyond said period provided the current law shall be amended.

c) Review and Regular Updating and/or Reformulation of Organic Agriculture Standards

Another landmark in organic agriculture was the crafting and adoption of the Philippine National Standards Specification for Organic Agriculture in 2003. However, these standards need to be updated and aligned with the international standards (e.g., IFOAM, Asia Regional Organic Standards) in order for the organic produce to be more competitive locally and globally, and for farmers and producers to be able to satisfy the growing demand on organic products.

3.4 EXTENSION AND CAPABILITY BUILDING

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>Section 9. Powers and Functions of the NOAB. The NOAB shall have the following functions...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to develop and promote organic agriculture, production, processing and trade; (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 agriculture sector in coordination with the Agricultural Training Institute <p><i>Rule 9.3 Only accredited extension service providers shall be tapped by the government for related group capacity building and on 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 farming technologies and related trainings provided that he either a member of the extension service provider or appropriately endorsed by such.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 9.4 The ATI shall continuously undertake appraisal and evaluation of the capability and competence of accredited extension service providers.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 9.5 The ATI shall encourage, support and provide continuous lifelong learning of all organic technologies and practices</i></p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>ATI</p>
<p>Section 22 RDE Centers. National, regional and provincial organic R&D 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.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DOST</p> <p>DENR</p> <p>SUCS</p> <p>LGUs</p>

<p>Rule 22.1 <i>National, regional, provincial, community based organic learning/training centers shall be established building on and or strengthened from existing RDE centers.</i></p> <p>Rule 22.2 <i>National, regional, provincial and Organic Research and Extension programs shall be formulated, organized, planned, implemented, integrated and strengthened form existing research and extension programs of the RDE centers of the DA, DOST, DENR, SUCs, LGUs and organic farming community based learning/training centers.</i></p>	
--	--

Another important strategy that goes hand in hand with the production and technology support is the provision of extension support and capability building interventions. In order to address such, it is important to have the right number of agricultural extension workers, technicians and para-technicians, and reputable service providers with adept knowledge, abilities and skills on OA. These key actors will provide the training needed by interested farmers, would-be practitioners and existing OA farmers, promote and encourage adoption of OA.

Overall, the extension program adheres to the basic principle of knowledge sharing and management among farmers and extension service providers. As such, the program component covers the: a) re-orientation and enhancement of the capabilities of the DA-BAFPS, other DA agencies (i.e., ATI), bureaus and departments, local governments and other institutions (NGOs, SUCs, and other CSOs) that provide extension services on OA, and b) capability building of farmers and farm workers as viable partners in promoting organic farming.

Also, to further increase the pool of experts in OA, the academe, NGOs and POs with their vast knowledge, research and extension experience may likewise be tapped to develop “*para-technicians*”.

The following are the programs envisaged under this component over the next five (5) years:

3.4.1 ESTABLISHING ORGANIC FARMERS' ORGANIZATION (OFO)/ORGANIC FARMERS' ASSOCIATION (OFA)/COOPERATIVES

Organized sectors are vital force in pushing for alternative development agenda, programs and projects. The farmers' organizations, NGOs and other civil society organizations have been the vanguards of mainstreaming the OA best practices because of common interests and visions. They are the vehicles of mainstreaming OA programs at the local level.

As such, the organic farming practitioners should be organized, registered and recognized by accreditation bodies such as the municipal technical committees, provincial technical committees and by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA) or any appropriate government entities. Capacity building can be channeled through these organized groups, to create a multiplier effect, thus the greatest impact.

3.4.2 CAPABILITY BUILDING AND DEPLOYMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOCAL PERSONS, PARA-AGRICULTURE/FARMER TECHNICIANS/SERVICE PROVIDERS

Agriculture extension service providers play a major role in the promotion and adaptation of OA technology/farming systems. While scientists can provide the scientific basis of the farming systems, farmers and OA practitioners have the first-hand experience in validating the technology.

A program that will ensure development and deployment of a minimum number of extension workers/service providers/farmer technicians on organic agriculture in each town or province should be implemented and spearheaded by the local chief executives.

To be able to augment the demand for local extension workers on OA, the various DA agencies, bureaus and departments, particularly DA-ATI should align and develop standardized instructional materials and conduct technology training on OA for focal persons, extension workers/service providers and farmer technicians in coordination with the LGUs.

Also, as an innovative approach and strategy, OA farmer practitioners should be tapped as extension workers.

3.4.3 ENHANCING THE COMPETENCIES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ORGANIC FARM WORKERS

It is recognized that labor is a major component of agricultural production but the present capacities and skills of the farm workers are inclined to conventional farming. In order to advance the practice of OA farming, there is a need for our agricultural labor force (most especially those who are interested to undergo OA farming) to undergo re-orientation and re-learning processes in terms of farming practices and further develop their competencies on organic farming systems. Those who are already practicing OA farming system continuous education on acceptable local and international standards that will improve the safety and quality of their OA produce.

To further advocate for increase number of OA farmers, part of the program is to encourage landless agricultural workers to go into OA farming. They will be organized and provided with skills training and various capability building interventions on organic farming systems, and will be registered as accredited service providers. For them to be able to perform their obligation as organic farm laborers or other service providers, these farm workers will be provided the necessary equipment, such as shredders, working animals, hand tractors, threshers through loan/credit facilities.

3.4.4 TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION AND POPULARIZATION

Instructional and technology materials on OA should be popularized as well as commercialized to make it readily available and accessible in the learning centers and non-traditional source of information (e.g., commercial bookstore, malls, trade exhibits, etc.). Best practices on organic agriculture, such as farmer tested farming systems should be transformed into instructional materials and resource books for farmer trainers and extension workers.

3.4.5 LEARNING FARMS AND RESOURCE CENTERS

Organic agriculture learning and resource centers should be established ***in each province*** which will house and at the same time showcase and/or demonstrate OA application using various modules in the areas of crop production, poultry, livestock and aquaculture. These learning and resource centers should be integrated, made

viable and replicable for small farmer cultivators. With enough facilities, funding, and capacity, these centers could also serve as repository and breeding hub of OA genetic resources.

3.5 PROMOTION, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>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</p> <p>(a) promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other appropriate farm inputs.</p> <p><i>Rule 4.2 All standards adopted shall, as far as practicable, be disseminated in Quad Media (i.e. radio, TV, broadsheet and internet based-social networks) but must at least be posted in a dedicated website, including the local government units' (LGUs) information on mechanisms, and shall be amended regularly when there are valid grounds for such revisions.</i></p>	BAFPS
<p>Section 6 National Organic Agriculture 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).</p> <p><i>Rule 6.4A Quad Media-Information Education and Communication (Quad-IEC) mechanism shall, as far as practicable, be established to disseminate the accomplishment report and relevant information on the status of the programs and project implementation of the TWG and Task Forces. Accomplishment and monitoring reports and relevant information on the status of the programs and project implementation of the TWG and Task Forces. Accomplishment and monitoring reports shall be made accessible to the public through a dedicated website or any other media, including the LGUs information mechanisms</i></p>	NOAB LGUs

<p>Section 13 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 an 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</p> <p><i>Rule 13.3 Organic Agriculture promotion and related activities should at all times consider strategies for ecological stewardship</i></p>	NOAB
<p>Section 17 Labeling of Organic Produce. The label of organic produce shall contain the name, logo or seal of the organic certifying body and the accreditation number issued by the BAFPS. Only third party certification is allowed to be labeled as organically produced.</p> <p><i>Rule 17.2 The DA and other member Departments of the NOAB, including related government agencies, with support from the LGUs shall conduct a sustained and massive National Community Based Quad Media IEC to promote and advocate OA farming systems adoption and accreditation during the transition period. In addition, capacities and resource capabilities of organic stakeholders shall be given full support and technical assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 17.3 In relation to this provision, the guidelines, rules and procedures for labeling shall be developed by BAFPS through consultation and substantive participation of OA stakeholders. Thereafter, these guidelines, rules and procedures shall be disseminated through Quad Media – IEC and posted in its dedicated website, including the LGUs information mechanisms.</i></p>	NOAB BAFPS LGUs
<p>Section 18 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.</p> <p><i>Rule 18.2 Retail establishments such as supermarkets, malls and similar establishments shall specifically designate an area where organic products are conspicuously displayed. Mixing non-organic and organic products is not allowed.</i></p> <p><i>Rule 18.3 IEC materials and collaterals attesting to the advantages of</i></p>	NOAB LGUs

<p>consuming organic foods should be placed in said retail establishments.</p> <p>Rule 18.4 <i>The LGUs shall establish dedicated stalls in the public markets and organize a special market day for organic products</i></p>	
<p>Section 23 Organic Agriculture in the Formal and Non-formal Sectors. The National Government, through the DepEd, with its mandate 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.</p> <p>Rule 23.1 <i>The DepEd together with the DA shall jointly:</i></p> <p>Rule 23.1.1</p> <p><i>(e) in partnership with DA and other concerned departments and institutions, develop information, education and communication (IEC) materials on organic agriculture that can be easily understood by students and parents</i></p> <p><i>(f) establish linkages with DA and NOAB member agencies, other concerned government agencies, LGUs, NGOs, organic farmer organizations and other concerned stakeholders, and media partners for a nationwide promotion, adoption and practice of organic agriculture.</i></p> <p>Rule 23.3 <i>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</i></p>	<p>DA</p> <p>NOAB</p> <p>DepEd</p> <p>LGUs</p> <p>CHED</p> <p>TESDA</p>

The focus of promotion, advocacy and education is not simply in selling organic produce and earning from it but rather raising the public's awareness or consciousness which will eventually lead to a lifestyle change. This requires the all-out mobilization of support from key government agencies that would encourage increased production to meet the growth in demand.

The core essence of this component is in building the image of organic agriculture to make it attractive and desirable to be involved in. Thus, information dissemination to all sectors, heightened consumer awareness, and a common understanding among the farmers, LGUs, and other lead agencies on organic agriculture systems is crucial. This lack of available data and programs was also evident in the data gathered during the island consultations.

To encourage participation and adoption of the organic agriculture, this would mean, among others, an all-out campaign for organic agriculture citing its benefits, and anchoring advocacy themes to: a) responsible consumerism that protects not just the consumers, producers but the environment as well; and b) development and production of information, education and communication (IEC) materials in key urban centers to popularize the OA rationale, processes and produce geared towards building a more informed and appreciative consumers.

And, in order to achieve its goals and objectives, the focus of this program component shall include but not limited to the following:

- a) Dissemination of standard information on OA Law and its IRR at all levels of the government system to provide uniform and reliable information. Brochures and materials outlining salient provisions of the law and the IRR shall be prepared and provided to all concerned initially through series of orientations and re-orientation activities;
- b) Education of farmers/fisherfolks, producers and consumers on the various aspects of organic agriculture, more so on the benefits of organic produce:
 - Employ segments from various existing TV/radio shows dealing with agriculture, aquaculture, parenting, lifestyle, health, business, talk shows that target a market cross section of consumers/ farmers/stakeholders.
 - Development and distribution of videos and techno guides in dialects, colorful, and are easy to understand.
 - Information ads in major dialects (including live ads on the streets) to address all sectors nationwide using quad media, including existing text centers. These information ads should educate, and sell the concept of going organic and not just the technology or product.

- Establishment of an Information Hub or a one-stop information center (“I-Hub It”) which can also be used as an avenue to link the farmers/fisherfolks/producers to the market/consumers.
 - Enhancement of the existing website (<http://organic.da.gov.ph/new/>) to be more interactive, and easy to use and understand, particularly for farmers/fisherfolks. And utilization of social networking sites (off & online) in conducting fora with expert resource people.
 - Production and dissemination of IEC materials which highlights OA as a strategy in preparing farmers to adapt to climate change and OA farming practices as mitigation measures to possible environmental disasters.
 - Conduct of events and activities such as trade shows/conference at the national and regional levels to follow up the info ads, following the format of Agri-link, to have an entertaining and information-laden convergence for organic stakeholders.
- c) Provision of information on the programs and assistance (i.e., technology, training, marketing and sales) of the LGUs and other government agencies involved in OA which practitioners/farmers can avail.

Specific actors and venues to assist in the development and implementation of this component consist of:

- a) Creative and technical scriptwriters to craft the info ads and press releases for all sectors;
- b) Public relations/marketing team to build the people’s awareness on OA;
- c) Information and communications technology (ICT) experts to design and manage the website for easy use and access of information;
- d) Organizers who will plan events and activities (national, regional and sectoral) that will attract people of varied interests;

3.6 MARKET DEVELOPMENT

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>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:</p> <p>d) Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with focus on the farmers and other stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Rule 4.5 The NOAB shall formulate the guidelines for the implementation of multi-sectoral (LGUs, NGOs, small organic farmers organizations, academe, RDE institutions, consumers and business groups) monitoring protocols to track the promotion and delivery of OAA support services and its implementation by the local chief executives (LCEs) at the provincial and city/municipal levels.</i></p>	NOAB
<p>Section 5 National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) There is hereby established a comprehensive organic agricultural program through the promotion and commercialization of organic farming practices, cultivation and adoption and processing methods which have already been developed or to be develop, 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), people’s organizations (POs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders including individuals and groups who are willing to do other pertinent activities, and documentation and evaluation of the program</p> <p><i>Rule 5.7 The DA and DTI must develop and institutionalize the promotion of local and international trade fairs, market promotion and matching activities with the active participation of LGUs, NGOs, NSAs, Academe, RDE institutions, organic farmer associations, 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 comprehensive NOAP. Likewise, the consumption of organic product in the country shall be encouraged and promoted</i></p>	DA DTI
<p>Section 18 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.</p> <p><i>Rule 18.2 Retail establishments such as supermarkets, malls and similar establishments shall specifically designate an area where organic products</i></p>	NOAB LGUs

<p>are conspicuously displayed. Mixing non-organic and organic products is not allowed.</p> <p>Rule 18.3 IEC materials and collaterals attesting to the advantages of consuming organic foods should be placed in said retail establishments.</p> <p>Rule 18.4 The LGUs shall establish dedicated stalls in the public markets and organize a special market day for organic products</p>	
<p>Section 19 Availability of Trading Posts for Organic Products. Local chief executives shall establish, as far as practicable, at least one (1) trading post for organic inputs for every LGU in their area of jurisdiction</p> <p>Rule 19.1 Provided that the establishment of a trading post for organic inputs is feasible, the Local Government Units (LGUs) on their own, shall establish such trading post</p> <p>Rule 19.2 Organic inputs to be sold in the trading posts must comply with the standard specifications established by the NOAB through BAFPs as outline by these rules</p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>LGUs</p>

In order to maximize the promotion and advocacy program component, there is a need for a conscious and focused local market development of organic agriculture to effect a paradigm shift in production and consumerism.

Policy interventions crafted and implemented should encourage and increase participation of the private sector, with the provision of incentives and institutionalization of reward systems (institutional, technical and financial resources) that will attract organic farmer-entrepreneurs and encourage more OA practitioners.

Partnerships among the private and public sectors can help develop and increase the market base of organic agriculture. And the government should support public procurement of organic produce to promote the use of organic products. These can be done initially by: a) targeting key urban centers and utilizing popular media in the information and education campaign, particularly on all the value-added advantages of organic agriculture; b) identification and selection of areas as organic zones where extensive interventions will be provided; and c) policy interventions that would support the government at the national and local levels to procure organic food products in feeding and nutrition programs, use of organic food in hospitals, government centers and other institutions, and in relief distribution during calamities, etc.

A major result of the promotion and advocacy efforts should be the expansion and broadening of the domestic market within the existing markets and food chain, and alternative/non-traditional marketing systems such as public institutions including hospitals, government centers and institutions.

Market maturity can also be enhanced through institutionalization of and adherence to local, national and global standards. Protection of OA farmers/producers and interested farmers against scrupulous businessmen who sell “tainted” inputs and protection of consumers from “fake” organic products will advance the country’s OA market. This can be done primarily by certifying and labeling organic products.

Also, market development, particularly between DA’s agencies and bureaus and other government agencies and the private sector involved in organic agriculture, can further develop and accelerate the standards, sales and demand for organic produce in the following:

- a) Export promotions and market development that may include but not limited to the following:
 - supply of materials, samples, product literature, development of website, advertisement, etc. for publicity and market promotion for fairs and events organized by BAFPS and other concerned agencies;

- upgrading and development of packaging standard and designs, and promotion of Philippine organic brands;
 - advertisement in international media, etc.; and
 - activities like buyer-seller events; participation in exhibits, fairs, events within and outside of the country, etc.
- b) Forging partnership with advocates of clean and healthy lifestyles.
- c) Integration and promotion of organic agriculture in schools at all levels.
- d) Establishment and/or integration of organic products in existing and new trading posts. These trading posts shall function as consolidation centers of organic products designed to cater to small farmers/producers.

- **Trading Posts/Shelves in Public Market and Malls for Organic Products**

LGUs shall identify and designate trading posts in conspicuous areas in every public market and malls exclusively for organic products.

- **Trading Posts**

Establishment of trading posts/marketing centers at strategic places where farmers would be able to sell their produce, get their supplies for their production and serve as information center on market sources, trends and pricing, investment opportunities, information on latest technology, etc. The trading post or *bagsakan* must be set up in strategic centers or towns in each of the provinces.

- e) Coordination and support to private groups/existing organic farms/institutions/LGUs in agri-tourism ventures showcasing organic villages and areas.

3.7 RESULTS-BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

RELEVANT PROVISION	LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
<p>Section 5 National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) There is hereby established a comprehensive organic agricultural program through the promotion and commercialization of organic farming practices, cultivation and adoption and processing methods which have already been developed or to be develop, 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), people’s organizations (POs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders including individuals and groups who are willing to do other pertinent activities, and documentation and evaluation of the program</p> <p><i>Rule 5.8 A NOAP progress monitoring and program benefit monitoring and impact evaluation of key organic programs, plans and projects shall be undertaken within three (3) years subject to the guidelines that will be developed by the NOAB. A separate and distinct TWG/Taskforce shall be created for this purpose.</i></p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DTI</p>
<p>Section 6 National Organic Agriculture 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).</p> <p><i>Rule 6.1The NOAB shall create TWG and Task Forces as the need arises, taking into account balanced representation from the stakeholders at the national and regional levels, working in partnership with the DA Regional Field Units (DA-RFUs), NGAs, RDEs, LGUs and CSOs in order to expedite the planning, budget formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various projects and activities. In all these TWG/TFs, the consumer group or coalition of organic products organizations’ representation shall be ensured.</i></p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>DA RFUs</p> <p>NGAs</p> <p>RDEs</p> <p>LGUs</p> <p>CSOs</p>
<p>Section 9. Powers and Functions of the NOAB. The NOAB shall have the following functions...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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) Monitor ad evaluate the performance of program for 	<p>NOAB</p>

appropriate incentives	
<p>Section 11 Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the BAFPS. The BAFPS, in addition to its existing functions and responsibilities shall perform the following functions, duties and responsibilities for purposes of this Act.</p> <p>(b) Update the NOAB on the status of the programs, projects and activities undertaken for the development and promotion of organic agriculture</p> <p><i>Rule 11.3 Coordination among agencies and the NOAB shall be established to monitor the implementation of the activities outlined in the NOAP. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that will be put in place shall be participatory in nature to reach the grassroots level.</i></p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>BAFPS</p>
<p>Section 14. Local Executive Committees. Every provincial governor shall, insofar as practicable, form a provincial technical committee, and which shall in coordination with and assistance of the BAFPS/DA RFUs will implement activities in line with the NOAP within each province</p> <p><i>Rule 14.5 The Department of Agriculture shall instruct the regional field offices to provide assistance to the local technical committees, work closely with the OA stakeholders, be responsible for integrating the regional organic agriculture plans, programs, project budgetary requirements and in monitoring organic agriculture project implementation in the region. The regional office shall be responsible for designating a focal person.</i></p>	<p>DA RFUs</p>
<p>Section 19 Availability of Trading Posts for Organic Products. Local chief executives shall establish, as far as practicable, at least one (1) trading post for organic inputs for every LGU in their area of jurisdiction</p> <p><i>Rule 19.1 Provided that the establishment of a trading post for organic inputs is feasible, the Local Government Units (LGUs) on their own, shall establish such trading post</i></p> <p><i>Rule 19.2 Organic inputs to be sold in the trading posts must comply with the standard specifications established by the NOAB through BAFPS as outline by these rules</i></p>	<p>NOAB</p> <p>LGUs</p>

As presented in Figure 1, inputs produce outputs and outputs create eventual outcomes or results that National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) should look into to determine the progress and impact of the various interventions funded under the NOAP. Under the OA law, monitoring and evaluation of key organic programs, plans and project will be undertaken within three (3) years subject to established and agreed guidelines. A separate and distinct technical working group/task force will be created to perform the said tasks. However, before a meaningful monitoring and evaluation can be done, scorecards or key performance indicators for the identified strategies should be established first and backed-up by sound baseline data.

A management information system (MIS) that captures the results of the various research studies (including baseline study) and aids in monitoring, such that real-time information can be easily stored and retrieved, will be a leap forward in the effective progress monitoring and dissemination of relevant information on OA.

Online monitoring, web-based technology information and database management that map out in real time the distribution as well as the status of organic produce in the entire country will help revolutionize the industry and aid in more effective decision-making for the organic movement.

The following are the programs that will be implemented to attain the objective(s) of this component and at the same time allow/provide for improvement in the design and implementation of NOAP:

3.7.1 BASELINE AND DATA BANKING

This component includes data gathering, conduct of baseline study and consolidation of data and other information on organic agriculture practices, initiatives, practitioners, covered areas according to crops, livestock, poultry, aquaculture, volume of production among organizations, municipalities and provinces. Data build-up/data-banking needs to be established at the national, regional, provincial and local levels, and pertinent information will be made available to the public in quad-media.

3.7.2 DEVELOPMENT OF M&E INSTRUMENTS

Simple and common monitoring and evaluation instruments are necessary for appropriate and timely decision making. At the minimum, the instruments will map information on the number of practitioners according to crops, poultry, livestock, aquaculture; number of heads or volume of production; covered area in hectare, price trends, yield per hectare and other relevant information such as income and

improvement of the environment. Also, guidelines for the implementation of national and multi-sectoral monitoring protocols should be formulated in order to tract the promotion and delivery of OA support services and its localized implementation.

3.7.3 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS) AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

The MIS and M&E component will facilitate proactive support to operations through timely information flow from the farmers to the LGU/TWG to DA-BAFPS/TWG and NOAB. Consolidation of the MIS flow should be conducted at the regional level through OA focal persons, and DA-BAFPS and the TWG will undertake analysis and policy recommendations to the NOAB. These recommendations will be cascaded from BAFPS to support the LGU/farmers' initiatives and activities. The established MIS will be disseminated through quad-media. Mid-term assessment and benefits/impact evaluation of the NOAP will be conducted after 3 years.

Table 1. Flow of Management Information Systems

BODY/UNIT/ENTITY	ROLE
NOAB	Deliberates, decides and recommends to the Chair
DA-BAFPS/TWG	Analysis of information and formulation of recommendations for NOAB
RFU Focal Persons	Consolidates provincial reports and makes recommendations to DA-BAFPS /TWG
Provincial Focal Persons	Consolidates municipal reports, makes recommendations and submits to the Governors and the TWCs
Municipal focal persons	Consolidates OFA/OFO/Cooperative reports to Mayors and TWCs
Farmer/cooperative leaders	Consolidates reports of farmer cooperators/ members; facilitates workshops (quarterly meetings)
Farmers	Submits reports to leaders

4.0 IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

In order to realize the National Organic Agriculture goals, key strategies, and targets which are set initially for 2012-2016, the NOAP's identified programs and priorities reflect both the long and short term objectives of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.

The consolidated six-year program includes projects identified by LGUs, NGOs and organic farming organizations, particularly inputs from the island consultations and other concerned DA agencies.

Relative to the implementation of the NOAP, the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB)²⁰, which is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), was established as the policy-making body and shall provide directions and general guidelines. The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) was appointed as the NOAB's Technical and Administrative Secretariat. (see Figure 3 in page 74)

4.1 INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING

- a) Given the coverage and extent of the NOAP, it is necessary to strengthen and empower BAFPS in terms of establishing functional divisions and incremental staffing to serve as the NOAB's national technical and administrative secretariat. In doing so, BAFPS shall establish the appropriate organizational set-up and operation systems towards the creation of the Organic Agriculture Division within a period of one (1) year from the adoption of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Organic Agriculture Act.²¹ (see Figure 4 in page 75)

One of the major tasks of BAFPS is to conduct a prior review and update of all existing government issuances, policies and programs to harmonize and strengthen them to be consistent with the provisions of this Act. Any recommendations made by the BAFPS shall be immediately forwarded to the NOAB for proper action.

- b) The Organic Agriculture Division to be established shall assist the NOAB to ensure successful implementation of the NOAP and monitor and evaluate the performance of programs for organic agriculture.

²⁰ The NOAB is chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture, or her/his duly authorized permanent representative, with a rank of Undersecretary together with the Secretaries (or her/his duly authorized permanent representative) of the Departments of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Education (DepEd), Agrarian Reform (DAR), Trade and Industry (DTI), and Health (DOH); three (3) representatives from the small farmers' sector (Luzon- Pecuaría Development Cooperative, Inc.; Visayas-Badjanan Organic Farmers Association; and Mindanao: Pambasang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka); a representative from the NGOs (MASIPAG); a representative from the agribusiness firm/private sector (Alter Trade Foundation, Inc.); and the academe (Benguet State University) which have been involved in sustainable agriculture for at least three (3) years.

²¹ The Organic Agriculture Act IRR was approved by the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAF) on 31 January 2011.

- c) Within the first year of the implementation of the NOAP, the NOAB shall formulate institutional mechanisms and arrangements that will ensure the effective implementation of the Work and Financial Plan. This must be achieved through effective coordination and networking among appropriate national government agencies and the LGUs as well as the existing network of organic producers and their support organizations including the small farmers/OSFOs, OFOs, agrarian reform beneficiaries, landless farm workers and indigenous peoples.
- d) Parallel to the development of standards, the NOAB through BAFPS shall call upon all government agencies and instrumentalities* to submit their respective annual and long term Organic Agriculture (OA) plans that are aligned with the NOAP taking into consideration climate change impact and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), gender sensitive development, site-specific ecosystem-based and indigenous knowledge systems and local community practices.²²
- e) The NOAB has the authority to call upon any government agency to carry out and implement programs and projects identified. Thus, each of the line agency members of the NOAB should institutionalize and officially incorporate in their programs, projects and performance indicators the targets identified in the NOAP. Primarily, the local technical committees in the LGUs should be established and institutionalized within the first two (2) years of the NOAP.
- f) Every provincial governor, city and municipal mayor shall form the local technical committees (provincial/municipal), and which shall in coordination with and assistance of the BAFPS/DA-regional Field Units (RFUs) implement activities in line with the NOAP within each province and municipality. Hence, the NOAP shall form part of the Local Development Plans, local development investment programs and annual investment plans of LGUs.
- g) Within the first two (2) years of the implementation of the NOAP, the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall pass provincial and/or city/municipal ordinances and/or resolutions as appropriate, specifying the participatory and bottom-up approach to grassroots organic agricultural programs and projects, subsequently approving and adopting the Provincial, Municipal or City Organic Agriculture Program and/or elaborating the NOAP as a strategy in addressing concerns on food security, environment, health and wellness, and poverty alleviation through their *Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod/Panlalawigan*, and appropriating funds for the purpose.

*LGUs, academe, NGOs, Small Farmers Organizations (OSFO)/Organic Farmers (OFOs) and RDE institutions.

²² Duties and Responsibilities of each NOAB member agency is discussed in full detail in the Organic Agriculture Act IRR from Sections 13 to 23.

- h) The NOAB shall create Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and Task Forces (TFs)²³ as the need arises, taking into account balanced representation from the stakeholders at the national and regional levels, working in partnership with the DA Regional Field Units (RFUs), NGAs, RDEs, LGUs, and CSOs in order to expedite the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the various projects and initiatives identified in the NOAP.²⁴
- i) And in order to sustain these initiatives, the NOAB through its Chairperson shall forge Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with the Leagues of Provinces, Cities/Municipalities and other concerned sources of ODA funds and negotiate with the members of the Congress (Senate and the House of Representatives) for fund sources for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NOAP within the first year of implementation.
- j) The DA should allocate at least 2% of its annual budget (GAA) for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NOAP and the operation of the NOAB. In relation to this, the NOAB member agencies, concerned departments, GOCCs, GFIs, and LGUs are encouraged to allocate a separate and distinct fund from their annual budget for organic agriculture. *

4.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- a) The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) shall strengthen its Organic Agriculture Unit which will handle the overall planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the Research and Development component of the NOAP following the bottom up participatory planning approach. Corresponding budget shall be allocated for the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of such.
- b) The Research and Development component of the NOAP shall be integrated in the implementation and strengthening of existing research and extension programs of the RDE centers of the DA, DOST, DENR, SUCs, LGUs and community-based organic farming learning/training centers from the national up to the provincial level.

²³ In all these TWGs/TFs, the consumer group or coalition of organic product organizations' representation shall be ensured.

²⁴ The criteria, guidelines and functions of the TWG and TFs shall be established by the NOAB with due consultation with the concerned OAA stakeholders for purposes of legitimacy, transparency and accountability, following the principle of inclusivity.

* Upon the initial implementation of the Organic Act of 2010, Fifty million pesos (Php50,000,000.00) and the existing budget for the production of organic farming of the DA was appropriated. For the GAA Y2011, Php900,000,000.00 was allocated for the continuous operation of the NOAB and the implementation of the program. And for Y2012, the proposed budget is Php927,200,000.00.

- c) BAR in coordination with DENR shall lead the conduct of continuing studies with consultations among the people and officials involved as well as POs and NGOs, in order for local governments, from the barangay to the provincial level, to devise a system 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.
- d) On the first year of implementation of the NOAP, an inter-agency committee shall be created and chaired by DA-BAR with members from concerned departments (i.e. DOST-PCAARRD, DAR, DepEd, CHED, DILG, DoE), SUCs, alternative learning institutions, NGO research service providers, organic small farmer organizations and cooperatives, and other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that will oversee the implementation and monitoring of national RDE programs on organic agriculture and provide relevant recommendations during the implementation process to the NOAB.
- e) National, regional, provincial, community based organic learning/training centers shall be established building on and/or strengthened from existing Research Development and Extension (RDE) centers.

4.3 PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

- a) BAFPS has been in charge of the development of product standards, including the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture, including guidelines, rules and procedures in the accreditation of an organic certifying body, and should continually formulate and/or update these standards which should cover from farming to processing and labelling, and retailing of organic products, taking into account existing approaches and emphasis on transparency and accountability. Also, the standards should take into consideration the quality and safety assurance systems which include but are not limited to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).
- b) BAFPS shall conduct a validation process for all organic products applied for registration in compliance with Section 16 on the Registration of Organic Food and Organic Input Producers of RA 10068
- c) In line with the provisions of RA 10068, all DA agencies/bureaus mandated to give licenses and accreditation shall review and align their existing guidelines or issue new ones in consultation with BAFPS to be consistent with the registration requirements for organic food and inputs.

- d) The ATI shall immediately adopt existing guidelines for the accreditation of the relevant extension service providers (ESPs) on organic agriculture. Such accreditation guidelines shall be submitted to the Board for final review and approval.
- e) To increase the number of practitioners, producers and widen the market base of organic agriculture, the national and local government units shall extend technical, marketing services to farmers, including incentives and other benefits such as cash reward and other financial support.

4.4 EXTENSION AND CAPABILITY BUILDING

- a) The NOAB, in coordination with other concerned agencies, shall provide technical and networking assistance to expedite the processing of applications of locally accredited certifying bodies for international recognition. Such assistance shall include, but not be limited to, proper endorsement of applications to the appropriate accrediting bodies.
- b) The ATI shall continuously undertake appraisal and evaluation of the capability and competence of accredited extension service providers.
- c) The Department of Education shall strengthen the integration of the philosophy and principles of organic agriculture, its importance, techniques and skills on the practice of organic agriculture in school curricula at all levels, preferably translated in Filipino and other local languages.
- d) The NOAB shall call upon the CHED, TESDA and other education institutions to formalize the integration of organic agriculture concerns in their curricula and other operational activities consistent with the provisions of the IRR and the NOAP.

4.5 PROMOTION, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

- a) All organic agriculture standards adopted should be disseminated in quad media-IEC, particularly in the website, including the LGUs' information mechanisms, accreditation guidelines, rules/procedures and fees for licensing, certification and registration, and shall be reviewed regularly and amended when necessary.
- b) The NOAB support the Annual National Organic Agriculture Conference (NOAC) and other regional and local congress on organic agriculture.

- c) The NOAB shall develop an awards program to recognize best practices and achievements in organic agriculture.

4.6 MARKET DEVELOPMENT

- a) The NOAB through DA-AMAS and other government agencies shall promote consumer education and awareness on organic agriculture.
- b) The DA and DTI must develop an annual promotion of organic agriculture through local and international trade fairs, market promotion and matching activities with active participation from multi-stakeholder groups/organizations, advocates and networks to push for organic products in the local and international markets.
- c) Commercialization of biological and organic inputs shall be promoted and encouraged taking into consideration the indigenous knowledge, local resource and practices and the science and technology based approaches in the communities.
- d) Retail establishments shall specifically designate an area where organic products are conspicuously displayed including IEC materials and collaterals attesting to the advantages of consuming organic foods.
- e) The LGUs shall establish dedicated stalls in the public markets and organize a special market day for organic products.
- f) If feasible, LGUs may opt to establish trading posts for organic inputs that are compliant to the standard specifications established by the NOAB through BAFPS and as outlined in the Organic Agriculture Act.

4.7 RESULTS-BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- a) Progress monitoring and impact evaluation of key organic agriculture programs, plans and projects shall be undertaken within three (3) years subject to the guidelines that will be developed by the NOAB. A separate and distinct TWG shall be created for this purpose.
- b) In addition, the NOAB should formulate the guidelines for the implementation of multi-sectoral monitoring protocols for the promotion and delivery of Organic Agriculture support services and its implementation by the local chief executives (LCEs) at the provincial, city and municipal level
- c) Also, the NOAB and its Technical Working Group (TWG) will periodically review all existing government issuances, policies and programs which have an effect on the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Act and harmonize further recommendations.
- d) The TWG or Task Forces or lead implementing agency shall submit quarterly accomplishment and annual reports to the NOAB. These reports shall be disseminated in quad media and posted in the website.

Table 2. National Organic Agriculture Board Organizational Composition

Agency/Organization	Position in the Board	Incumbent	Permanent Representative
<i>Government Representatives</i>			
Department of Agriculture (DA)	Chair	Sec. Proceso J. Alcala	USec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat
Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)	Vice Chair	Sec. Jesse Robredo	Ms. Anna Liza F. Bonagua
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)	Member	Sec. Mario Montejo	Dr. Patricio S. Faylon
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	Member	Sec. Ramon Paje	Dir. Marcial C Amaro, Jr.
Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)	Member	Sec. Virgilio Gil R. De Los Reyes	USec. Jerry E. Pacturan
Department of Education (DepEd)	Member	Sec. Armin A. Luistro	Dr. Milagros C. Valles
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	Member	Sec. Gregory Domingo	Dir. Nestor P. Arcansalin
Department of Health (DOH)	Member	Sec. Enrique Ona	
<i>Private Sector Representatives²⁵</i>			
Pecuaría Development Cooperative (PDCI)	Member - Luzon Small Farmers' representative	Mr. Miller Bicaldo	
Badiangan Organic Farmers' Association	Member - Visayas Small Farmers' representative	Mr. Rey Pedroso	
Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) – Mindanao, Inc.	Member - Mindanao Small Farmers' representative	Ms. Emalyn Legal	
Magsasaka at Siyentipiko Para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG)	Member – NGO	Dr. Charito Medina	
Alter Trade Foundation Inc.	Member - Agribusiness Firm / Private Sector	Mr. Edwin Marthine Lopez	
Benguet State University (BSU)	Member – Academe	Dr. Ben D. Ladilad	

²⁵ Appointed members of the NOAB shall serve for a single term of three (3) years and cannot be reappointed for another term. The current appointed members of the NOAB shall serve the period starting from August 2011 to August 2014

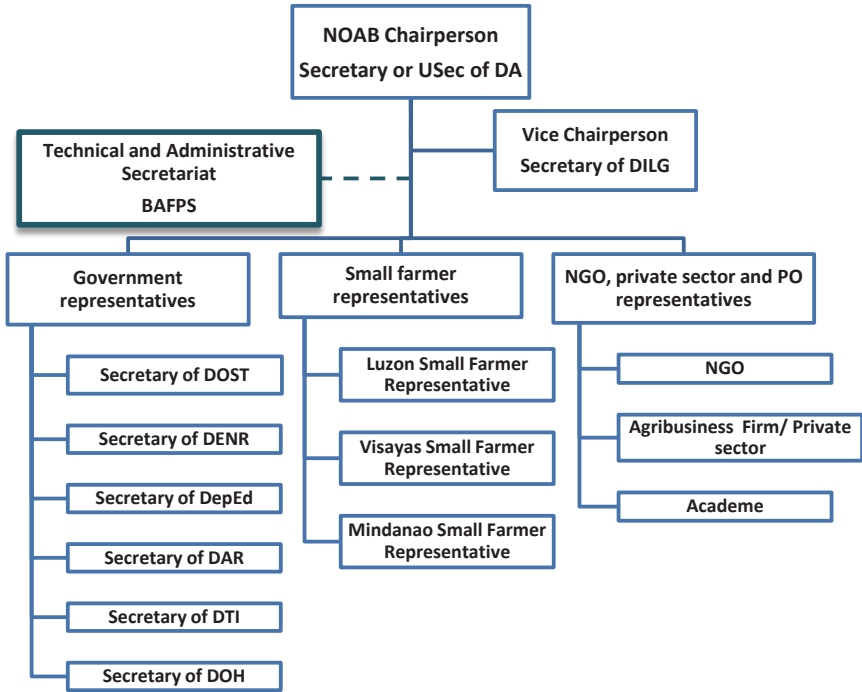


Figure 3. Organizational Structure of the NOAB (with BAFPS as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat)

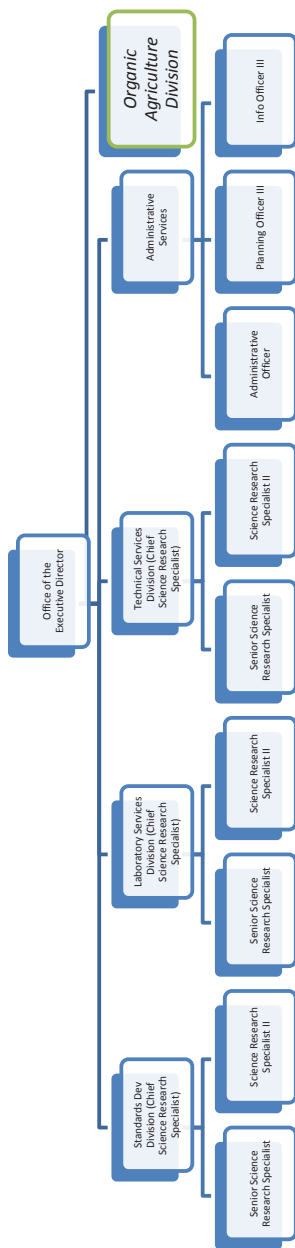


Figure 4. New Organizational Structure of BAFPS (with the Organic Agriculture Division)

5.0 WAY FORWARD

Much is expected from the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. As a landmark reform initiative for the country's agriculture sector, a programmatic development intervention is needed to address the challenges and issues facing the sector including positively contributing to the over-all equitable growth and development envisioned in the Philippine Development Plan as well as in the Agri-Pinoy Framework and Strategy of the current leadership of the Department of Agriculture.

The National Organic Agriculture Program of 2012-2016, mandated by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA10068, presents the results of a consultative process which outlines key programs, indicative targets, strategies, institutional mechanisms and monitoring systems that are all geared towards promoting and developing organic agriculture in the country.

ANNEX 1

Summary of the Organic Agriculture Initiatives by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)¹

The following are activities that started in 2007 with the consultation workshop on Organic Agriculture development including the development of Organic Agriculture Science and Technology (S and T) Framework, packaging, funding, monitoring and evaluation:

- National Research and Development (R and D) Programs on Organic Vegetables
- Organic Muscovado Sugar R and D program for Western Visayas
- Organic coffees R and D Program for the Cordillera Region
- S and T based farms on organic agriculture
- Publication of S and T based IEC materials
- Capability building and linkages – 5 trainings conducted since 2006 to 2009
- Organic Agriculture technology transfer and forum series conducted through PCAARRD, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), and other agencies (Series of 1 to 5) which served as venues for disseminating technologies and information to the public. This created awareness and understanding of knowledge about OA in the Philippines in different areas.
- Philippine Organic Agriculture Information Network (Phil-Organic) – a web-based information system provides data/information to various stakeholders in the country. This facilitates sourcing, build up delivery and exchange of information among stakeholders. This was launched during the Philippine Society of Soil Science (PSSST) last June 1, 2006.

¹ Based on the comments and suggestions of PCAARRD on the Draft National Organic Agriculture Program (2012-2016) circulated for NOAB's review, January 18, 2012.