



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01  
SERIES OF 2022**

**SUBJECT: REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (NOAP) PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11511, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**I. LEGAL BASIS**

Republic Act No. 10068, also known as the “Organic Agriculture Act of 2010,” was amended by Republic Act No. 11511 on December 23, 2020. Section 2 of RA 10068, as amended, provides for the following, to wit:

*“It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity and farmers’ incomes, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, encourage the participation of indigenous organic farmers in promoting their sustainable practices, further protect the health of farmers, consumers and the general public, save on imported farm inputs and promote food self-sufficiency.”*

The amended Organic Agriculture Act recognizes the pivotal role of Local Government Units (LGUs) in the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) especially at the grassroots level. The amendment, among others, encourages small farmers and fisherfolk to form Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups as a viable alternative to the otherwise current and costly third-party organic certification. It likewise provides farmers with subsidies and incentives for converting to and sustaining the practice of organic agriculture. Moreover, it provides technical assistance and support to the LGUs for the establishment and strengthening of local organic seed centers, distribution of organic seeds, planting materials, animals, and aquaculture for organic farm inputs. It prioritizes market development and trade promotions through organic livelihood projects, agricultural digitalization and trade fairs.

The National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), the policy-making body of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP), issued DA-DAR-DOH-DILG- DOST-DTI- TESDA-NCIP Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, series of 2021, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10068, as amended by RA 11511, otherwise known as ‘Amendment to the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010’ (IRR of the Organic Agriculture Act as amended by RA 11511)”, which took effect on March 15, 2022. Accordingly, the revised roles and

responsibilities of LGUs in the promotion and implementation of NOAP are laid-out in the said IRR.

Prior to the enactment of RA 11511, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, Series of 2018 entitled "The Revised Joint Memorandum Circular on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the Implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program under Republic Act No. 10068, otherwise known as "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010". The JMC was issued on 31 May 2018.

With the amendment of RA 10068, this Circular is issued to revise DA-DILG JMC No. 1, Series of 2018.

The general objective of this Circular is to provide a framework by which the LGUs (provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays) will implement the NOAP and the provisions of the amended Act and its implementing rules and regulations. It likewise provides the DILG with a guide with which it will supervise LGU compliance with this Circular.

## **II. PURPOSES**

1. To clarify and reiterate the roles and responsibilities of the LGUs in propagating and developing further and implementing the practice of Organic Agriculture (OA) in the Philippines.
2. To identify the role and responsibilities of the DA and the DILG in providing support to the LGUs for the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, as amended.
3. To encourage partnerships and alliances among various Government Agencies, League of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities of the Philippines, local and international organizations, and grassroots stakeholders in the full adoption and implementation of the Act, and in ensuring that local initiatives are consistent with national organic agriculture programs, rules, regulations and policies.

## **III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)**

All local government units (provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays) are encouraged to:

1. Submit to the DA, through the National Organic Agriculture Program-National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP-NPCO), long-term OA plans within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Circular, taking into consideration climate change impact and mitigation, with emphasis on adaptation, disaster risk reduction and management, gender sensitive development, site specific ecosystem-based, for consolidation and integration into a comprehensive NOAP (*Section 5, Rule 5.1 and Section 15, Rule 15.1 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
2. In coordination with the NOAP-NPCO, formulate the short-, medium- and long-term comprehensive, strategic, and sustainable organic agriculture investment programs and development plans for family farms, municipalities and cities, and enact the appropriate local ordinances in support thereof;
3. Assist the DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) in the monitoring of projects under OA and establish a database/template for accomplishment and monitoring reports in accordance with the DA-RFO template (*Section 9, Rule 9.2 of the IRR of RA 11511*);

4. Ensure that the prepared and approved OA development plan is aligned and integrated in the Provincial/City/Municipal framework for food self-sufficiency program (*Section 9, Rule 9.7 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
5. Submit an annual local organic agriculture industry profile (*Section 9, Rule 9.9 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
6. Encourage the formation of, and support the operations of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups in their locality, through the provision of technical and financial assistance (*Section 14, Rule 14.11 and Section 16, Rule 16.10 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
7. Develop, review and enhance its local solid waste management plan that shall give focus on the proper disposal and recycling of local wastes for the production of organic fertilizers and other farm inputs in accordance with applicable existing Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture (PNS-OA) (*Section 15, Rule 15.1 and Rule 15.2.2 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
8. Consult with their local industries in the development of a contingency plan for industries affected by the implementation of the NOAP;
9. Establish and operationalize its Local Technical Committees on Organic Agriculture (LTC-OA) as provided for in Title VI herein (*Section 16, Rule 1 of RA 11511*);
10. Establish and/or strengthen its local organic seed banks for indigenous and traditional varieties, including farmer breed lines and locally adopted varieties, farmer seed bank, and conduct national campaigns for the protection and preservation of indigenous and traditional crop varieties as provided for in Title IX herein (*Section 16, Rule 11 of RA 11511*);
11. Monitor and regulate organic produce and products sold within its territorial jurisdictions (*Section 18, Rule 18.9 of RA 11511*);
12. Enact ordinances that protect organic farming zones and organic farming practices (*Section 16 of RA 11511*);
13. Promulgate appropriate ordinances that promote a participatory and bottoms up approach to grassroots organic agricultural programs and projects, and appropriate funds for the purpose (*Section 16, Rule 16.9 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
14. Promote organic produce and products, including the weekly conduct of a special market day for certified organic produce and products (*Section 20, Rule 20.9 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
15. Identify local taxes that may be offered as incentives for organic input production and utilization (*Section 25, item b of RA 11511*);
16. Allocate a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of their overall agriculture budget to support NOAP, subject to COA rules and regulations and other existing applicable laws (*Section 26, Rule 26.4 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
17. Allocate funds from their annual budget (General Appropriations Act, Internal Revenue Allotment, LGU Development Fund, Economic Development Fund, Official Development Assistance, Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, etc. and private sector investment) in support to the implementation of the NOAP. The LGU

will report to the NOAB on their fund allocation for organic agriculture activities (*Section 5, Rule 5.12 of the IRR of RA 11511*);

18. Enforce the amended Act in their jurisdictions and immediately report penal violations to competent authorities (*Section 27 of RA 11511*);
19. Support organic livestock, poultry and fisheries production in collaboration with the LTC-OA.

#### **IV. DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY FRAMEWORK, ORGANIC AGRICULTURE LOCAL INDUSTRY PROFILE, OA ROADMAPS AND PLANS**

In developing their food self-sufficiency framework, the LGUs shall incorporate the OA roadmap and plans, which in turn shall be based on the OA local industry profile. The LGUs shall coordinate with the DA-RFOs on the templates to be used for the OA local industry profile and OA roadmap and plans with a minimum period of three (3) years. The OA roadmap shall be mainstreamed in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and Annual Investment Program (AIP) of the LGU. In this regard, the LGUs shall update their existing CLUP and CDP to incorporate the OA roadmap and plans. In the process of preparing the localized OA roadmaps, industries that will be negatively affected shall be consulted in order for them to make preparations, particularly concerning the sourcing out of raw materials for their industries (*Section 16 of RA 11511*).

The LGU shall formulate its framework for its food self-sufficiency program. The framework shall provide the strategic plans of action in eliminating malnutrition and hunger, bringing unity and responsibilities between the community and the LGU, educating the community on the importance of practicing organic farming and sustainable agriculture, and generating food and income from the establishment of backyard organic gardens and community organic farms (*Section 9, Rule 9.7 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

#### **V. MONITORING AND REPORTING OF LGUs**

The provincial governors shall monitor the implementation and progress of organic agriculture within their respective jurisdictions using templates and databases provided by DA-RFOs, and update their OA local industry profiles annually using these data. The annual OA local industry profile for the current year shall be submitted to the NOAB through the DA-RFO and NOAP-NPCO by the end of the first month of the following year.

All organic agriculture related information and databases from the member departments, agencies, bureaus, research institutions, and LGUs shall be linked to the NOAP website (*Section 5, Rule 5.16 of the IRR of RA 11511*). In this regard, the LGUs shall pass an ordinance on the creation of an organic agriculture registry and database.

All existing issuances, ordinance or resolutions relating to organic agriculture shall be submitted to the NOAB through the NOAP-NPCO through electronic e-mail (*Section 9, Rule 9.1 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

The LGUs shall coordinate with the DA, DOH, and DTI in the conduct of monitoring, as deemed necessary, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 17 (*Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, and Products*), 18 (*Labeling of Organic Produce*) and 19 (*Retailing of Organic Produce*) of the amended OA Act (*Section 18, Rule 18.7 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

The LGUs shall collaborate with the DA-Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Centers (ATI-RTCs) in developing an extension agenda for organic agriculture stakeholders in their respective localities (*Section 21, Rule 21.6 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

The LGUs shall allow the posting of OA annual reports, to include work accomplishments and financial statements, in its information mechanisms for information (*Section 29, Rule 29.1 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

## **VI. LOCAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (LTC-OA)**

As provided under Section 16 of RA 11511, the Local Chief Executives of the LGUs, in coordination and with the assistance of the DA-RFOs, shall establish, insofar as practicable, a multi-sectoral provincial/municipal/city LTC-OA within their respective jurisdiction. The roles, compositions, organizations and operations of the LTC-OA are as follows:

### **A. Roles of the Local Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (LTC-OA)**

1. The provincial and city/municipal LTC-OA shall establish a collaborative mechanism for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the organic agriculture program, in line with the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) (*Section 16, Rule 16.7 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
2. The provincial LTC-OA shall assist the city/municipal LTC-OA in the implementation of the NOAP; and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the same in their respective jurisdictions (*Section 16, Rule 16.7 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
3. The LTC-OA shall be responsible for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the short-, medium-, and long-term local organic agriculture program. They shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program in their respective jurisdictions (*Section 16, Rule 16.8 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
4. The LTC-OA shall support the promotion and formation of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups (*Section 16, Rule 16.10 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
5. The LTC-OA shall develop a local OA industry profile within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Circular (*Section 16, Rule 16.12 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
6. The LTC-OA shall assist in policy formulation, including the enactment of ordinances for the monitoring and regulation of organic produce and products sold within its respective jurisdiction (*Section 16, Rule 16.13 of the IRR of RA 11511*);
7. The LTC-OA shall supervise/oversee the organic livestock, poultry and fisheries program in their respective jurisdictions.

### **B. Composition of the LTC-OA**

#### **B.1 City/Municipal LTC-OA**

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Circular, the Local Chief Executives of the LGUs, in coordination and with the assistance of the DA-RFOs and other OA stakeholders, shall issue an Executive Order establishing a multi-sectoral city/municipal LTC-OA, within their respective jurisdictions composed of the following (*Section 16, Rule 16.1 of the IRR of RA 11511*):

- a. Local Chief Executive (LCE);
- b. Council Committee Chairperson on Agriculture;
- c. Council Committee Chairperson on Finance;

- d. Punong Barangay of a barangay in the city/municipality actually engaged in organic agriculture;
- e. Three (3) representatives from small farmer associations representing crops, livestock and fisheries, preferably certified organic;
- f. One (1) representative from the agribusiness sector or a registered cooperative actually engaged in organic agriculture;
- g. One (1) representative from CSOs actually engaged in organic agriculture;
- h. One (1) representative from consumer groups, whenever applicable;
- i. One (1) representative from the academe, whenever applicable; and
- j. One (1) representative from Indigenous People's organizations, whenever applicable;

## **B.2 Provincial LTC-OA**

The provincial LTC-OA shall be composed of all chairpersons of the city/municipality LTC-OA or their authorized representatives (*Section 16, Rule 16.6 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

## **C. Organization and Operation of LTC-OA**

The representation of NGOs, academe, private business, and small farmers in the city/municipal LTC-OAs shall be chosen through their own selection processes, and in consultation with concerned stakeholders to ensure participatory process and transparency (*Section 16, Rule 16.2 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

The LTC-OA shall elect its chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary (*Section 16, Rule 16.3 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

For every LTC-OA established, the Provincial/City/Municipality Agriculture Officer, together with their OA focal persons, shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the committee (*Section 16, Rule 16.4 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

The representatives from the LGUs shall be entitled to one (1) vote casted by the highest official or his/her authorized representative (*Section 16, Rule 16.5 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

The LTC-OA shall be responsible for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the organic agriculture program in line with the NOAP. They shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program in their respective jurisdictions (*Section 16, Rule 16.8 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

## **VII. PROMOTION AND FORMATION OF PGS GROUPS**

The LGUs shall encourage the formation and provide support for the operations of PGS groups within their locality, through the provision of technical and financial assistance. (*Section 14 Rule 14.11 and Section 16 Rule 16.10 of the IRR of RA 11511*). The guidelines for the accreditation of Core PGS Groups and its operation as Organic Certifying Bodies (OCBs) are provided in DA Department Circular No. 03, series of 2022.

The LGUs shall facilitate the issuance of the mayor's permit to PGS groups and PGS farms, the possession of which shall grant them legal personality. The documentary requirements and periods for the issuance of such permit shall be in accordance with Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2019-001 series of 2019, or the Implementing Rules and

Regulations of RA 11032, otherwise known as “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”, and other relevant rules and regulations.

#### **VIII. PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS**

The LGUs shall revisit and update its local solid waste management plan pursuant to RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) and shall give focus on the proper disposal and recycling of local wastes for the production of organic fertilizers, in accordance with applicable current Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture (PNS-OA) (*Section 15, Rule 15.1 of the IRR of RA 11511*). In this regard, the LGUs shall amend their ordinance on solid waste management, within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Circular, incorporating provisions on the production of organic fertilizers.

#### **IX. LOCAL SEED BANKS**

The LGUs, through their LTC-OA, within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this JMC, shall coordinate with the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and other agencies for the establishment and/or strengthening of its local organic seed banks. These seed banks shall give special attention to plant varieties that are indigenous to the locality, including farmer breed lines and locally adopted varieties. The LGUs shall likewise undertake campaigns for the protection and preservation of indigenous and traditional crop varieties (*Section 16, Rule 16.11 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

Whenever possible and with the assistance from other agencies and organizations, the LGUs shall shoulder the costs of the establishment and maintenance of these seed banks and distribute the initial starter seeds and planting materials for free to their constituents. The LGUs shall maintain a record of recipients of seeds and planting materials, and monitor their production. In this regard, the LGUs shall pass an ordinance on the establishment, maintenance and management of its local seed banks.

#### **X. ORGANIC LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, FISHERIES AND APIARY**

The LGUs shall endeavor to establish organic livestock programs and projects (including poultry, fish hatchery and bees) in collaboration with the LTC-OA. The LGUs shall allocate appropriate funds for programs and projects that will undertake animal, fingerling/breeder and bee dispersals for free to qualified small farmers who have undergone relevant training on organic livestock. However, they may charge minimal fees to beneficiaries who can afford the same for cost recovery. They shall also maintain a record of their recipients and shall conduct proper monitoring of their production. In this regard, the LGUs shall pass an ordinance or issue an executive order, within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Circular, on the establishment, maintenance, management and monitoring of organic livestock, poultry and fisheries programs and projects.

#### **XI. PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF ORGANIC PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS**

Whenever practicable, each LGU shall identify and provide an area where retail selling of OA produce and products may be made. Such retail outlets shall be located in areas where there is a high presence of foot-traffic. The LGUs shall likewise conduct and organize trade fairs where organic agriculture produce and products may be showcased.

The LGUs shall also maximize the use of digital platforms and e-commerce in promoting and marketing OA produce and products. They shall develop and institutionalize the promotion of local and international trade fairs, market promotion and matching activities with the DA and the DTI (*Section 5, Rule 5.7 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

## **XII. PROVISION OF INCENTIVES**

The LGUs shall provide any of the following as incentives to organic agriculture farmers or businesses:

1. Provide incentives to organic input production and utilization, such as exemption from payment of business registration tax. They shall assist the PGS groups and other qualified OA practitioners, within their jurisdictions, avail of subsidies, and other fiscal incentives under the amended OA Act (*Section 14 (h) of RA 11511*);
2. Enact ordinances that shall institutionalize a reward system for programs and activities that actively pursue organic agriculture, e.g. family gardens, communal gardens and *Gulayan sa Paaralan*;
3. Provide additional financial support for the recipients of scholarships, subject to the implementing guidelines issued by NOAB.

## **XIII. BUDGET FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

The LGUs shall allocate a portion of their overall agriculture budget to support organic agriculture, subject to COA rules and regulations and other existing applicable laws (*Section 26, Rule 26.4 of the IRR of RA 11511*).

## **XIV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (NGAS)**

### **A. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)**

1. Enjoin LGUs in the implementation of the provisions under this Circular as well as the RA 10068, as amended, and its IRR;
2. Capacitate LGUs, through the Local Government Academy (LGA), in order to ease compliance with the amended RA 10068, and its IRR;
3. Assist the DA in monitoring compliance by LGUs with the amended OA Act, its IRR and other issuances; and
4. Continue to create the environment to foster grassroots growth of organic agriculture in the LGUs.

### **B. Department of Agriculture (DA)**

1. Conduct information dissemination/caravan with the DA-RFOs on this Circular;
2. Prepare format to facilitate OA roadmap preparation and planning by the LGUs, and provide technical assistance on the facilitation of OA roadmap;
3. Provide OA reporting templates for LGUs; and
4. Provide financial and technical support, as necessary, to LGUs and other grassroots OA stakeholders.

**XV. COOPERATION WITH LGU LEAGUES**

All LGUs are encouraged to become members and collaborate with the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities/Cities/Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH) for sharing of OA experiences and best practices, as well as widen support in promoting organic agriculture.

**XVI. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All issuances, circulars, orders and memoranda, part or parts of which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Circular, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**XVII. EFFECTIVITY**

This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect upon publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and its filing with the University of the Philippines Law Center – Office of the National Administrative Register.

Issued this 19th day of December, 2022 in Quezon City, Philippines.

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