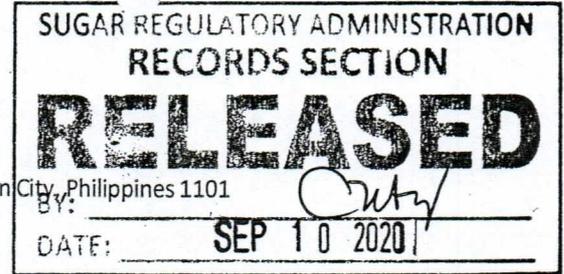




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
TIN 000-784-336



MEMO-PPSPD-2020-SEPT-016

Date: September 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 13
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE PROJECT "WATER MANAGEMENT AND IRRIGATION OF SUGARCANE FARMS"

I. Policy Statement / Rationale

In crop year 2018-2019, the country's average farm productivity was 53 tons cane per hectare while in Thailand, it was 71 tons cane per hectare. A major challenge of sugarcane farming in the Philippines is low farm productivity where most of the sugarcane farms are rainfed. There is no dedicated irrigation network for sugarcane, however, upon the passage of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act of 2015 (SIDA), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is mandated to include sugarcane in its irrigation program. A few sugarcane areas in the country are now given access to existing NIA irrigation projects although rice is still the priority crop for its irrigation systems. In order to come up with an appropriate irrigation system for sugarcane, a water-resource mapping in each mill district is necessary.

One of the major strategies of the SRA, pursuant to the directive of the Sugar Board, of increasing the productivity in sugarcane farming is through the implementation of the project, "Water Management and Irrigation of Sugarcane Farms" starting 2020.

Improved agricultural productivity and production efficiency is one of the sub-outcome key sectoral targets of sugarcane under the NAFMIP 2020-2025.

The demographics, gender and gender issues of the members of the project's beneficiaries will be deposited in the SRA database and the project shall be attributed as part of the SRA's initiatives on gender and development. An impact assessment shall be undertaken by the Planning, Policy and Special Projects Department (PPSPD) to be able to determine the outcome of the project with respect to soil rejuvenation and fertilization technologies introduced and funded by SRA.



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Website: <http://www.sra.gov.ph> Email Address: srahead@sra.gov.ph
Tel. No.: (632)929-3633, (632)455-2135, (632)455-3376



"A food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk"

II. Definition of Terms

1. ABE – acronym for the SRA interim unit on “Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering”;
2. CSO – acronym for Civil Society Organization which refers to sugarcane industry organizations such as MDDCs, associations, cooperatives and foundations;
3. MDO – acronym for Mill District Officer which refers to the field or extension personnel of SRA assigned in the sugarcane mill districts;
4. MOA – Memorandum of Agreement signed between SRA and the project beneficiary of the “Water Management and Irrigation of Sugarcane Farms” project;
5. NAFMIP – the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan, 2020-2025 which is anchored on the new thinking for agriculture and envisions a food secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolks. The strategic thrusts of NAFMIP are based on the eight paradigms of the new thinking for agriculture, namely, modernization, industrialization, export development, farm consolidation, infrastructure development, roadmap development, budget and investments, and legislative support;
6. R, D & E - acronym for Research, Development and Extension which is the mother unit of the MDOs and implementing unit of SRA on the project, “Water Management and Irrigation of Sugarcane Farms”;
7. SRA – acronym for “Sugar Regulatory Administration” which is created pursuant to E. O. 18, series of 1986, and implementing government entity of the project, “Water Management and Irrigation of Sugarcane Farms”;
8. NIA - acronym for the National Irrigation Administration, a government-owned and controlled corporation primarily responsible for irrigation development and management. It was created under Republic Act (RA) 3601 on 22 June 1963;
9. Small Scale Farm Level Irrigation Project - irrigation projects whose water source are within the vicinity or immediate vicinity of the individual farm/s and whose service area consists of not more than 500 hectares;
10. Communal Irrigation Projects - are large scale irrigation projects the beneficiaries of which are composed of farming communities whose aggregate service area consist of more than 500 hectares.

III. Scope and Coverage

The guidelines cover the implementation of the project, “**Water Management and Irrigation of Sugarcane Farms**” with sugarcane farmers as beneficiaries within the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces, namely: 1) Negros Occidental, 2) Negros Oriental, 3) Iloilo, 4) Capiz, 5) Leyte, 6) Bukidnon, 7) Batangas, 8) Tarlac, 9) Davao Del Sur, and 10) North Cotabato.



Iloilo, 4) Capiz, 5) Leyte, 6) Bukidnon, 7) Batangas, 8) Tarlac, 9) Davao Del Sur, and 10) North Cotabato.

IV. Objectives

1. *Development:*

- To improve sugarcane farm productivity and sugarcane production through water management, water resource mapping and installation of appropriate irrigation facilities within the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces.

2. *Immediate:*

- To identify the priority beneficiaries of the project within the 10 sugarcane-producing provinces;
- To provide funding support on water management and irrigation facilities for the sugarcane farms in the target provinces.

V. Fund Sources

The funding of the project may be derived from the following sources:

1. General Appropriations Act (GAA);
2. SRA corporate revenues;
3. Funding from other government agencies;
4. Special purpose fund of the government or other local fund sources; and
5. Foreign funding.

VI. Implementing Guidelines

1. *Eligibility Criteria, Qualifications and Disqualifications*

- a. For the communal irrigation system: Sugarcane farmers who are cultivating farms falling within the proposed service area of the irrigation system and are organized or willing to be organized as Irrigators Association and to be registered with SRA as CSO for the purpose of operating, managing and maintaining the "project". Individual farmers, farmers association or cooperatives from the different farming communities surrounding the water source such as diversion dams, water impounding projects, etc. may compose the Irrigators Association;
- b. For small scale irrigation project: Sugarcane farmers belonging to a compact or adjacent, collective or individually owned farms who share common water source such as direct pumping systems from rivers and creeks, shallow tube wells, solar-powered irrigation and other similar systems;
- c. A maximum of 2 CSOs shall be funded by SRA in a crop year per sugarcane mill district, depending on fund availability;



- d. The farm site should be an existing sugarcane farm, with sustainable water source as determined and recommended by the SRA's (ABE) engineers or NIA Engineers, as the case maybe, after the conduct of a preliminary survey or pre-engineering design.

2. *Documentary Requirements from Project Beneficiaries*

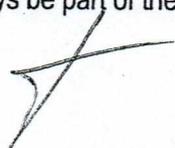
- a. Filled up and duly signed application form with photo of the CSO Chairperson;
- b. List of target farmer-beneficiaries, farm size and locations with sex disaggregated data and identified gender issues;
- c. Photocopy of CSO accreditation and SRA registration certificates of their beneficiary sugarcane farmers duly validated by concerned MDO;

3. *Search, Evaluation and Approval of the Beneficiaries*

- a. The SRA technical personnel shall submit a list of proposed site/s that will be endorsed by the MDO to the Chief Agriculturist for the preliminary survey of the ABE Division
- b. The Interim Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) Division shall assess and evaluate the water resources identified by the applicants as endorsed by the MDO and submit its recommendation to the Deputy Administrator for R, D & E on the appropriate type of irrigation facilities to be installed.
- c. The R, D & E Deputy Administrator shall endorse to the SRA Administrator for approval the final list of qualified CSOs and type of irrigation facilities to be funded;
- d. The list of CSO project beneficiaries shall be posted in the SRA Mill District Offices and the SRA website;
- e. Succeeding approved funds or unutilized funds for similar projects may follow the same evaluation procedure.
- f. For large scale Irrigation projects or projects of more than 1,000 hectares proposed service area, the same shall be endorsed by the SRA Administrator to the National Irrigation Administration for funding and construction

4. *Fund Releases, Utilization and Liquidation*

- a. A MOA between SRA and the CSO shall be executed prior to commencement of any procurement activity;
- b. The R, D & E shall design the template of the MOA and ensure that gender and development shall always be part of the MOA provisions;



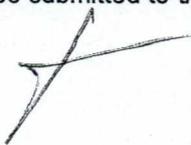
- c. All irrigation sites of qualified farmer beneficiaries shall be implementation ready at the time of MOA signing;
- d. The SRA MDO shall prepare the work and financial plan and the interim ABE Division shall prepare the program of works, if any, which shall form part of the MOA;
- e. The assistance may be through cash transfer or in kind, and both shall be subject to standard COA and accounting rules and procedures;
- f. If the assistance will be in "kind", the SRA R, D & E unit shall be responsible for the procurement of irrigation equipment and accessories including services for the installation of the irrigation facilities in the farm sites.

5. *Implementation of the Project*

- a. The interim ABE shall inspect the implementation readiness of the project sites and prepare the program of works, when necessary, for approval by the SRA Administrator;
- b. The interim ABE Division shall conduct onsite inspection of the implemented projects and submit its inspection report to the Administrator as basis for the Planning, Policy & Special Projects Department on the impact assessment of implemented projects;
- c. The SRA MDO shall serve as the project coordinator who shall assist the CSO in complying with the documentary requirements and monitor regularly the accomplishments of the project and the CSO in operationalizing the service area and repair and maintenance of the irrigation facilities;
- d. Any deviation from the original list of proposed irrigation sites and type of irrigation system indicated in the MOA shall be approved by the SRA Administrator as recommended by the Deputy Administrator for R, D & E prior to procurement and installation of the irrigation facilities;
- e. In case of fund transfer, the SRA shall transfer the approved amount stipulated in the MOA to the CSO, subject to liquidation pursuant to COA rules and regulations;
- f. In case SRA manages the fund disbursement, the Deputy Administrator for R, D & E shall administer the procurement, deliveries and installation of the irrigation equipment and accessories to the project sites.

6. *Monitoring and Evaluation*

- a. The implementation of the project shall be monitored by the SRA MDO and monitoring reports shall be submitted to the Administrator on a quarterly basis.



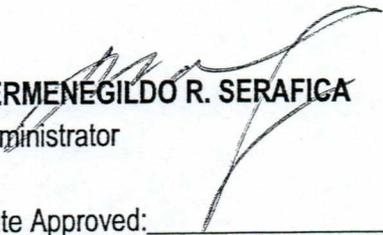
The template of monitoring reports shall be designed by R, D & E together with the PPSPD and approved by the SRA Administrator;

- b. The Office of the Chief Agriculturist shall digitize the contents of the application form and submit to MIS of PPSPD for database purposes including the geotag maps of project sites;
- c. The SRA MDO shall prepare a report within 10 working days upon the completion of the installation of irrigation facilities using the template prepared by PPSPD which shall be submitted to the SRA Administrator through the Chief Agriculturist, R, D & E Manager and Deputy Administrator for R, D & E;
- d. The Planning, Policy and Special Projects Department (PPSPD) shall provide a periodic evaluation report based on the monitoring reports submitted by the MDOs and assess the performance of the project, its impact to farm productivity and sugarcane production and impact to gender and development after three (3) crop years of implementation through interviews with the beneficiaries and based on the monitoring and terminal reports of R, D & E.

VII. Effectivity

The circular takes effect 15 days after submission to the UP Law Library and shall be posted in the SRA website.

Approved (By the Authority of the Sugar Board):


HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA
Administrator

Date Approved: _____