



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture

SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

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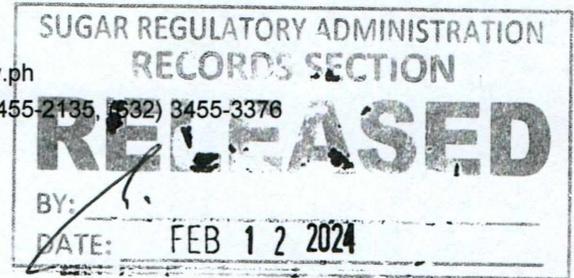
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MEMO - RDE - EGD - 2024 - JAN - 035
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2

Series of 2024



SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMONSTRATION FARMS

I. RATIONALE

It is the policy of the state to improve the competitiveness of the sugarcane industry and increase the income of farmers, especially the small and marginal ones. To improve the competitiveness of the sugarcane industry, the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA) of 2015 mandated the Sugar Regulatory Administration as lead implementer of the SIDA programs/projects/activities. One of the priority projects considered as stated under the SIDA Law is the establishment of demonstration farms.

Demonstration farms can intensify technology transfer to the farmers. Farm visits, advisories and seminars are not enough to convince farmers to adopt new technology. Generally, farmers are very sceptic when it comes to the advent of new technologies. They would rather adhere to long-time used varieties and conventional farming practices than accept potentially better technologies that, to them, are not yet proven. For them, to see is to believe.

A more effective formula is "show rather than tell", and this is where the demo farms can be of help. On-farm validation is one powerful decision-making tool for farmers. Economic data can be included in the results, and useful cost benefit analyses of different farming practices may be generated. Therefore, the main objective of the project is to intensify technology through exposure of farmers to SRA recommended practices for a more profitable farming.

Moreover, groups of farmers can also join in research and assist one another in investigating new varieties, farm practices, and inputs. The success stories of these farms can spread fast via word-of-mouth. Once the news has spread, other farmers would take interest, visit the sites, and see for themselves. Once improved technology is adopted, this will result in increased production in the mill district which also means increased opportunities for employment and income in the rural sector.

For farm advisors and SRA extension workers, these demo farms can be used as a basis for extending advice to other farms. Lessons learned from this project could be developed to serve as a basis for recommendations in future programs/ projects.

II. QUALIFICATIONS - Demonstration farm

1. One hectare in area, gps surveyed and secured from grazing animals.
2. Situated along the main road where it can be seen and observed by many farmers.
3. Relatively flat in topography with good drainage or gently rolling.
4. Included in the dominant soil type in the district.

5. Preferably with water source or irrigation facility.

III. PERIOD COVERED

The Project shall have a term of one year or can extend up to fourteen months (plant crop) but the ratoon (1st and 2d) shall be observed for technology evaluation purposes.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECT

1. The budget shall be taken from 2024 Corporate Budget and shall be provided by SRA to the farmer-cooperator in the amount of P185,000.00 per demo farm (1-hectare).
2. The Work and Financial Plan should be duly reviewed by the Chief Agriculturist and approved by the RDE Deputy Administrator II through the RDE Manager III, which shall be the basis for the disbursement of funds.
3. The first tranche or 80% of the shall be released before the start of the project implementation while the remaining 20% shall be released before the start of the harvesting operations.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

Preliminaries

1. Preparation of the budgetary requirements by the MDO/Agriculturist based on approved work and financial plan.
2. Endorsement of documents to the Office of the Extension Services Division, together with the proposed Work and Financial Plan.
3. Certification of the completeness of the submitted documents by the Chief Agriculturist and endorsement of the same to the RDE Manager III for appropriate action.

Field Operations

1. Application of timely/SRA recommended cultural practices for the entire one (1) hectare farm operation
2. Sourcing of high yielding varieties (HYVs) from SRA, MDDC or SIDA funded block farms.
3. Preparation of crop damage reports especially in cases of force majeure and/or massive crop infestation for submission to the Office of the Chief Agriculturist through the Mill District Officer. The report should be attested by the farmer-cooperator.
4. Payment for farm inputs must be based on prevailing rates within the mill district or neighboring farms. For farm labor, it shall not be lower than the Regional Labor Standards of the DOLE.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

All proceeds from the farm should go directly to the farmer-cooperator which will be used mainly for the ratoon's care and maintenance of the succeeding crop year.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Close supervision of the demo farm by the MDO/Agriculturist together with the farmer-cooperator to ensure that all operations and activities are properly and timely implemented.
2. Supervisory visits by the ESD main office especially during the growth stage. 3. Submission of

reports to the Office of the RDE Deputy Administrator II & RDE Manager III.

- Monthly submission of activities, budget utilization and any relevant information
- Terminal report (20 working days after the completion of the harvest) indicating therein the following:
 - ✓ The project site;
 - ✓ The actual starting date of the project;
 - ✓ Total amount spent (detailed per activity);
 - ✓ The technology used and its source;
 - ✓ The productivity data (Ton canes per hectare, LKg/TC) amount of the proceeds of sale of the quedans;
 - ✓ Conclusions and recommendations Documentation per operation (with pictures).
 - ✓ Other relevant information such as the planted crop's habit of growth or recommendations as maybe needed to improve the succeeding projects.

APPROVED: (By the Authority of the Sugar Board)



HON. PABLO LUIS S. AZCONA
Administrator