



15 December 2020

**MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY**

**FOR : DR. MYER G. MULA**  
Director, Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)

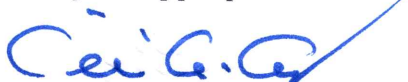
**SUBJECT : DESIGNATION OF THE SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SAAD) PROGRAM DIRECTORATE AS DA'S FOCAL IN THE INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MULTISECTORAL NUTRITION PROJECT**

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This pertains to the above-mentioned project proposal for possible loan assistance under the World Bank to be led by the DSWD with the DA as a participating agency in the implementation of the project. The project intends to increase the utilization of a package of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and improve key behaviors and practices known to reduce stunting in targeted LGUs. The project shall be implemented in 32 poorest provinces and areas with highest stunting rate. Target implementation shall be in January 2022.

In view of the scope and coverage of the project, it is an opportunity to align the project to the DA's existing SAAD Program which is also focusing on the poorest provinces and more likely contribute to the ultimate goal of the proposed project. As such, the SAAD Program shall be designated as the focal unit of the DA for the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (TWG) with the following roles and functions:

1. **During the Project Preparation Phase**, DA through SAAD to provide inputs and assist DSWD in developing the feasibility study report. The inputs from the DA shall be focused on the food production and livelihood interventions which are nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive in the provinces with high poverty incidence and high stunting rate.
2. **Implementation Phase**, the DA-SAAD Program Management Office (PMO) shall:
  - (a) Serve as the DA counterpart unit in the implementation of the sub-component of the "Philippines Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Project"; and,
  - (b) Coordinate with concerned agencies through the DA-RFOs the implementation and monitoring of the project.

For your appropriate action.

  
**WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**  
Secretary



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

Department of Agriculture  
SAAD-Program  
**RECEIVED**

Date: 1/18/21  
By: 