



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City

June 15, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR : JANET D. GARCIA**  
Chief, International Affairs Division (IAD)

**FROM : National Program Director, Special Area For**  
**Agricultural Development (SAAD)**

**SUBJECT : IAD'S REQUEST FOR INPUTS/SUGGESTIONS ON SOCIAL**  
**PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-**  
**19 PANDEMIC FOR THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**ORGANIZATION (FAO)**

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In response to your email yesterday, here are the SAAD Program's inputs and suggestions on social protection programs in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that SAAD was one of the social protection programs assessed by the FAO under a study (*FAO. 2019. Seeking greater coherence between agriculture and social protection in the Philippines - A policy and programmatic review. Manila.*) <https://www.fao.org/3/ca6655en/CA6655EN.pdf>

1. As a social protection and agriculture program, SAAD refocused its interventions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of the imposed lockdowns during the beginning of the pandemic, the SAAD Program refocused its 2020 activities to provide immediate-impact on accessibility to consumers. The funds that were supposed to procure high-cost (per unit) industrial crops, fruit tree seedlings, machinery, equipment and facilities, were instead diverted to basic food production inputs such as crops, poultry, livestock, and fisheries (aquaculture and inland). Implements for land preparation were given first before the actual production inputs. Please see SAAD article for more information: <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2020/04/saad-refocuses-2020-activities-immediate-impact-sustain-phs-food-security-amid-covid-19>

Up to now, since the pandemic is still ongoing, the SAAD Program continues with activities to counter logistical and supply restrictions such as the establishment of crops and livestock multiplier farms and nurseries. Please see: <https://saad.da.gov.ph/establishment-of-bpi-accredited-crop-nursery-based-enterprise-part-1>; <https://saad.da.gov.ph/establishment-of-multiplier-farm-based-enterprises-livestock-and-poultry-production-through-saad-association-2>

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2. Please be informed also that the SAAD Program is currently working on a convergence project with the Department of Social Welfare and Development – Sustainable Livelihood Program (DSWD-SLP) in an effort to provide more assistance to poor farmers. This is in response to FAO’s recommendation in the aforementioned study to explore a territorial approach in common project sites with DSWD-SLP to foster greater linkages and cross-sectoral collaboration.
3. Lastly, the SAAD Program is proposing a Phase 2 which will be implemented from 2023-2028. It is hoped that the FAO will continue to be a partner of the project.

We hope we gave you a meaningful response regarding this matter.

Thank you.

**MYER G. MULA, Ph.D.**

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**Request for Input/Comments on FAOs Partnership with SAAD in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic**

1 message

**DA International Organization** <da.internationalorg@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 14, 2022 at 2:18 PM

To: DA SAAD &lt;saad@da.gov.ph&gt;

Cc: Janet Garcia &lt;janet.garcia@da.gov.ph&gt;

*Sent on behalf of Maam Janet Garcia, Chief of the International Affairs Division,*

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to respectfully request feedback, talk points, or comments for possible suggestions, particularly in the context of social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines. We can raise this to FAO during its 170th Council session from June 13–June 17, 2022. Specifically, Dr. Joy Javelosa, our Agriculture Attache in Rome, would like to receive particular progress and provide guidance as appropriate (e.g. request to continue further assistance or other forms of assistance) from agencies who worked with FAO on the COVID-19 related programs.

If I may share, the FAO is currently conducting its 170th Council session and part of the agenda will revolve around Item 7: Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19. This document talks about the efforts of FAO and its contribution to member countries to help combat the virus. It suggests member nations provide guidance or comments on their existing actions to further improve their COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme.

If time permits, we would appreciate it if the inputs could be provided by tomorrow, June 15, 2022. We are looking forward to your input and feedback.

Thank you, and stay safe.

Warm regards,

**Dean Marc A. Bolima**

International Organizations Desk

International Affairs Division

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1101

Direct Line 8920 4086 to 87 Local 2208