



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

March 15, 2022

**MARIA ROSARIO SINGH-VERGIERE, MD, MPH, CESO II**  
Undersecretary of Health  
Public Services Team  
Department of Health Central Office  
Quiricada St., San Lazaro Compound  
Manila, Philippines

Attention: **BEVERLY LORRAINE C. HO, MD, MPH**  
Director IV  
Disease Prevention and Control Bureau  
Health Promotion Bureau

Dear Undersecretary Vergiere:

The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall remain as the technical oversight in the inclusion of food diversification and production as part of the messages in the Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) portion of Component 1 (Strengthened Delivery of Nutrition and Primary Health Services). In this light, we endorse to you the functions of the DA in the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project (PMNP), as approved by Secretary William D. Dar.

The following recommended functions to be stated in the PMNP Project Operations Manual (POM) are as follows:

*The DA shall:*

- 7.1. *Provide review and technical input to the SBCC design related to food diversification that are included in support to the implementation of Component 1;*
- 7.2. *Assist LGUs in coming with their policies and/or guidelines in the advocacy for the implementation of food diversification activities as part of the Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs);*
- 7.3. *Provide technical assistance and trainings to Local Government Units (LGUs) on food diversification, as needed; and*
- 7.4. *Assist LGUs in educating communities to develop viable, accessible and sustainable alternative sources of food to improve food security.*

For your favorable action.

Thank you very much!

Very truly yours,

**MYER G. MULA, Ph.D.**  
National Program Director, DA-SAAD Program

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March 8, 2022

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**FROM : UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS**

**SUBJECT : UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PHILIPPINE MULTISECTORAL NUTRITION PROJECT (PMNP)**

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The PMNP's Project Operations Manual (POM) is currently being drafted wherein the specific tasks of partner agencies, such as the Department of agriculture (DA), are being discussed.

The PMNP is to be co-led by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and proposed for official development assistance loan from the World Bank (WB). The project shall be implemented from CY 2022-2025.

The DA will have the technical oversight in the inclusion of food diversification and production as part of the messages in the Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) portion of Component 1: Strengthened Delivery of Nutrition and Primary Health Services.

**DA Functions**

On the part of the DA, the following are the recommended specific functions:

*The DA shall:*

*7.1. The DA shall provide review and technical input to the SBCC design related to food diversification that are included in support to the implementation of Component 1.*

*7.2. Assist LGUs in coming up with their policies and/or guidelines in the advocacy for the implementation of food diversification activities as part of the Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs);*

*7.3. Provide technical assistance and training to LGUs on food diversification, as needed; and*

*7.4. Assist LGUs in educating communities to develop viable, accessible and sustainable alternative sources of food to improve food security.*

The aim is to empower the LGUs who will in turn train or assist the communities/beneficiaries.

Please note that the budget for these functions shall be borne by the PMNP.

**Organizational Set-up**

It is recommended that the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) take over as the DA's Focal for the PMNP at the national level. The ATI is being recommended because most of the abovementioned functions shall require the provision of training to LGUs.

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Further, the SAAD Program which is the current DA Focal for the PMNP, shall be terminating this CY 2022 and may not get extended. However, if the SAAD gets extended, please be assured that the program shall continue to assist for the PMNP.

In the regional level, the DA Regional Field Offices shall lead, with the assistance in the ATI as well as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

In this light, we would like to seek your approval of the aforementioned recommendations.

For your favorable consideration, Sir.

Thank you.

  
**ENGR. ARIEL T. CAYANAN**

**APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:**

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

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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