



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

March 2, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR : ATTY. ARMANDO R. CROBALDE, JR.**  
**Director, Legal Service**

**FROM : SAAD PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL RESPONSE OF DA SAAD ON THE LEGAL OPINION**  
**RE: THE SAAD TERMINAL EVALUATION PARTNERSHIP WITH**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI)**

---

In relation to the memorandum dated February 24, 2022 of Legal Service, the DA SAAD Program is providing its response on the points raised. (please see Annex A).

If the DA Legal Service does not see the provided answer as sufficient and legally in order, then the program will rightfully terminate the proposed partnership.

Lastly, the program is willing to set a meeting with the Legal Service to further discuss the attached annex if deemed necessary by your respective office.

For queries, please contact Mr. Darwin Pamatmat at (02) 929 7349 or at local 2833/2834.

For your favorable consideration.

Thank you.

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

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





LEGAL OPINION		SAAD's response	
ITEM	DETAILS	Name	Roles/expertise
I. In the proposed budget, IRRI allocates P7,136,591 out of the total...	a. Who are these professionals?	Valera, Harold Glenn (Local Consultant)	Project leader and WP 1 lead  Expertise: agricultural policy analysis, impact evaluation with RCT and econometric methods, economic analysis of farm household survey data, economic modeling
		Pede, Valerien (Foreign Consultant)	WP 4 Lead Expertise: M&E specialist, econometric modeling, spatial analysis, impact evaluation, farm household data collection and analysis
		Laborte, Alice (Local Consultant)	WP 2 Lead Expertise: Spatial analysis, stakeholder engagement and policy analysis, market research, value chain analysis
		Enriquez, Yuji (Local Consultant)	WP 3 Lead Expertise: Monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, impact evaluation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, stakeholder engagement and policy analysis, environmental planning and management
		Valencia, Ma. Shiela (Local Consultant)	Survey implementation, data processing and management  Expertise: Research include economics of rice production, rice marketing, nutrient and water management in rice production, and impact assessment studies.

*A food-secure and resilient Philippines*

*with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk*





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

		Cabrera, Ellanie (Local Consultant)	Survey implementation, data processing and management
		Cayanan, Mary Grace (Local Consultant)	Project coordination and management
	b. Will IRRI hire new consultants in addition to its existing cluster consultants?	<p>The above-stated team of consultants shall lead the proposed study. However, due to the interest of time (8 months), the team shall hire regional/provincial consultants that will assist on data gathering in their respective areas.</p> <p>This scheme is similar for any other institutions/SUCs hired for nationally-led project evaluations since the study is time bound.</p> <p>Any additional consultants deemed necessary shall be charged to the agreed amount.</p>	
	c. Does IRRI plan to tap foreign consultants?	<p>There is one included foreign consultant on the study particularly expert on Impact Evaluation-related studies. (please refer to item a)</p> <p>If deemed necessary by this review, IRRI could easily tap experts in different fields from sister organizations who may or may not be Filipino citizens. This is made possible through the One CGIAR modality.</p> <p>And as stated in item b, any additional consultants deemed necessary shall be charged to the agreed amount on the MOA.</p>	
	d. ...Why should this particular activity where the government will avail of external technical and professional expertise be	<p>The DA and IRRI already implemented similar activities based on MOU/MOA and did not require undergoing the procurement process. This study to be conducted by IRRI for the SAAD is no different.</p> <p>Also, the SAAD program has conducted 2 evaluations outsourced and partnered with 2 SUCs. Particularly,</p>	

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





	<p>exempt from the procurement process?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) - Midterm Assessment (MA) in 2020</li> <li>2. Central Luzon State University (CLSU) - Social Preparation and Enterprise Development Assessment (SPEDA) in 2021</li> </ol> <p>During these partnerships, the program has coordinated with other SUCs and identified that other qualified SUC (UP in particular) is not willing to participate based on non-submission of proposals during the 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment (SPEDA) conducted by SAAD.</p> <p>In addition, the terminal evaluation shall also serve as one of the basis for the proposed extension of the program. As such, it prefers to partner with an international project evaluator since it aims to establish credibility and may serve as reference for local and foreign funding in the future.</p>
<p>II. In your response...</p>	<p>a. Does this mean IRRI does not have an existing pool of consultants to cover non-rice commodities such as vegetables, fish, livestock, etc.? It will need to tap other organizations who are experts in non-rice sectors?</p>	<p>The DA SAAD aims to partner with CGIAR thru this Terminal Evaluation. In the Philippines, CGIAR is represented by IRRI as one of its centers. Technically, experts from different CGIAR centers may be tapped by IRRI to lead this activity.</p> <p>At the moment, the team composition of CGIAR - IRRI focuses on the Terminal Evaluation in general other than per commodity since the Terminal Evaluation focuses on the project impact evaluation. This expertise cuts across agri and fishery commodities in general.</p> <p>IRRI maintains that our socio-economic experts are well-equipped with the necessary capacity/expertise to conduct impact evaluation of the SAAD program (the team will apply experimental and quasi-experimental methods,</p>





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

		and data collections tools and techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of this DA undertaking). We also have vast experience in evaluating interventions on livelihood on rice and other commodities.
	b. As you said, IRRI will tap the expertise of CGIAR's different scientists. Will this entail costs like payment of consultancy fees as well?	All costs incurred in the project shall be charged on the proposed budget and will not hamper the deliverables of the CGIAR – IRRI.
	c. ...Has IRRI conducted an independent study on the fisheries sector?	As previously discussed, the rice-fish culture is a study that covers both fields of rice and fish. Thus, technical knowledge on both fields are required to conduct such studies.  Further, the Terminal Evaluation of SAAD focuses on the impact of the program's implementation across commodities. Thus, it focuses on understanding the system employed that resulted to the program's economic and social outcome rather than specifically focusing on the technical and physiological aspect of commodity items.

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





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

24 February 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR : SAAD PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

**FROM : DA LEGAL SERVICE**

**SUBJECT : RESPONSE OF DA SAAD ON THE LEGAL OPINION RE. THE SAAD TERMINAL EVALUATION OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

---

We received your response to our Memorandum dated February 17, 2022 with attached documents to support your position.

We would like to request SAAD to answer the following questions so we can more properly respond to each point/issue raised in your response.

**ON SAAD'S POSITION THAT THE COLLABORATION WITH IRRI IS NOT SUBJECT TO RA 9184**

1. In the proposed budget, IRRI allocates **P7,136,591** out of the total budget of **P15,287,874** or almost **50%** for the payment of professional services.
  - a. Who are these professionals?
  - b. Will IRRI hire new consultants in addition to its existing cluster consultants?
  - c. Does IRRI plan to tap foreign consultants?
  - d. Consulting Services is defined in the IRR of RA9184 as services for infrastructure projects and other types of projects or activities of the government **requiring adequate external technical and professional expertise that are beyond the capability and/or capacity of the Government to undertake** such as, but not limited to: (i) advisory and review services; (ii) pre-investment or feasibility studies; (iii) design; (iv) construction supervision; (v) management and related services; and (vi) other technical services or special studies (IRR-A Section 5 [i]). Why should this particular activity where the government will avail of external technical and professional expertise be exempt from the procurement process?

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



## ON IRRI's TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

1. In your response, you stated:

***"This means that the DA could work with IRRI as if it is working with all the Centers of the CGIAR. Appropriate mechanisms will be tapped to secure the expertise of the CGIAR's different scientists working on different commodities (including agriculture) to contribute to this project evaluation if deemed necessary. For this project, local experts in vegetable production, fisheries and livestock will be engaged in the team as consultants."***

- a. Does this mean IRRI does not have an existing pool of consultants to cover non-rice commodities such as vegetables, fish, livestock, etc.? It will need to tap other organizations who are experts in non-rice sectors?
- b. As you said, IRRI will tap the expertise of CGIAR's different scientists. Will this entail costs like payment of consultancy fees as well?
- c. You shared that IRRI had formerly undertaken projects on the development of rice-fish systems. A rice-fish system, as published on the IRRI's website is an *"integrated rice field or rice field/pond complex, where fish are grown concurrently or alternately with rice."* These projects studied the integration of rice and fish to improve productivity from a solely rice system. Has IRRI conducted an independent study on the fisheries sector?

We would like to clarify that our February 17, 2022 Memorandum did not categorically state that IRRI is not qualified to take on this project. We just advised SAAD to have another look and take into consideration IRRI's mandate and experience. IRRI may actually be qualified but our position was, the procurement of its services should be through the procedure set out in RA 9184.

We shall await your answers and thereafter, we will coordinate with your office regarding the requested meeting to discuss this matter further.

  
ATTY. ARMANDO R. CROBALDE, JR.  
OIC-Director

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

