



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01  
Series of 2024**

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE FUNCTIONAL COMPLEMENTATION AND DELINEATION AMONG THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES ENGINEERING, REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DIVISION OF DA REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES AND THE AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING OFFICES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS ON THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF AGRI-FISHERIES ENGINEERING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND MECHANIZATION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

**SECTION 1.0 BACKGROUND AND LEGAL ISSUANCES**

- 1.1. Section 24 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10601 (Agricultural and Fishery Mechanization Law) has strengthened the Agricultural Engineering Groups of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the creation of the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) and the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) of DA Regional Field Offices. The functions of BAFE and RAEDs are likewise provided under this law;
- 1.2. Section 29 of RA No. 10601 in relation to R.A. No. 10915 (Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Act of 2016), mandates the strengthening and creation of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Groups of the Local Government Units (LGUs). In line with its implementation, the DA, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2020, entitled "*Implementing Guidelines on the Strengthening and Establishment of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Groups of the Local Government Units*";
- 1.3. Section 4 of CSC Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2023, "*2022 Guidelines and Standards in the Establishment of Organizational Structures and Staffing Patterns in Local Government Units*" prescribes that the position of Provincial, City, and Municipal Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers are mandatory for creation. This is in view of the implementation of Section 34 of RA No. 10915.

- 1.4. Section 17 of RA No. 7160 (Local Government Code) and other pertinent laws provide the devolved and mandated functions on agricultural and biosystems engineering, infrastructures, and mechanization of LGUs which shall be assumed by the Office of the Provincial, City, and Municipal Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (ABEs) include the following:
- a) Provision/repair/upgrading, operation, maintenance, and management of irrigation and soil and water conservation projects such as small water impounding projects (SWIPs), diversion dams, communal irrigation systems, and bio-engineering for flood control Section 17(b)2 (vii), RA No. 7160, and Section 31, RA No. 8435 (AFMA);
  - b) Provision/upgrading of agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research facilities/centers (Section 17 (b) 2(i) and 3 (i), RA No. 7160 in relation to RA No. 10915);
  - c) Post-harvest facilities such as multi-purpose drying pavement, storage facilities, slaughterhouses, fish ports (municipal), municipal fish landing sites, ice plants, and cold storage and fish processing establishments (Section 17 (b) 1 (vi, ix), RA No. 7160, Section 13, RA 7607 (Magna Carta of Small Farmers); Section 59, RA No. 8550 (Fisheries Code);
  - d) Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization- a) extension and on-site research (Section 28, RA No. 10601); b) formulation and implementation of Local Agricultural and Fishery Mechanization Plan (Section 33, RA No. 10601); and c) promotion of agri-fisheries machinery service centers with DA (Section 9, RA No. 10601);
  - e) Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Regulations- a) Registration of agricultural and fishery machinery in the City and Municipal LGUs (Section 19, RA No. 10601 and DA-DILG Joint MC No. 2018-02); and b) fish hatcheries, fish breeding facilities, and private fishponds (Section 57, RA No. 8550); b) Registration and licensing of all fisheries post-harvest facilities: fish processing plants, ice plants, cold storages, fish ports/ landings (Section 60, RA No. 8550); c) Enforcement of Philippine ABE Standards (PABES ) in the LGU procurement of agricultural and fishery machinery and infrastructure projects, and technical assistance on the issuance of permits agricultural and biosystems buildings (Section 21, RA No. 10601 and Section 17 (d), RA No. 7160); and d) After-sales service monitoring (Section 17, RA No. 10601);
  - f) Support to Barangay Development Plan and its Implementation of Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) Services – provision of 10% counterpart; maintenance of FMRs – Barangay Roads; Multi-Purpose Drying Pavement (MDP) and Storage.

- g) Agricultural and Biological Waste Management and Utilization- a) Composting facilities/ projects; and b) Promotion of biogas technology in livestock areas (Section 17, RA No. 9003 -Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Section 36, RA No. 8749; Section 20, RA No. 9275); and
- h) ABE Interventions to Local Climate Change Action Plan a) Small scale irrigation; b) Renewable Energy Program for Agri-Fishery Sector; c) Precision agriculture (land laser leveling, hydroponics, greenhouse agriculture); and soil erosion control (Section 14, RA No. 9729-Climate Change Act of 2009).

## **SECTION 2.0. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Guidelines is to institute functional complementation, cooperation, and delineation among the DA through BAFE, RAEDs, and Offices of the Provincial, City, and Municipal Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer of LGUs (LGU ABE Offices) to ensure harmonized, effective, and efficient planning and implementation of agri-fisheries infrastructure, mechanization, and agricultural and biosystems engineering programs and projects at the national, regional, provincial, city, and municipal levels.

## **SECTION 3.0 SCOPE/COVERAGE**

This covers the functional relation, complementation, and delineation among the BAFE, RAEDs, and the Offices of the Provincial, City, and Municipal Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer of LGUs.

Functional complementation with other DA agencies implementing agricultural and Biosystems engineering activities will be covered by separate Guidelines.

## **SECTION 4.0. POLICY CONTENT AND GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**4.1. Functions and Responsibilities of BAFE-** Pursuant to RA No. 10601, the BAFE shall:

- a) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the national planning and implementation of agri-fisheries engineering, farm-to-market road, and other agri-fisheries infrastructure projects; and assist in national planning, coordination, and monitoring of the national agri-fisheries mechanization program. Along this, the BAFE shall :
  - a.1. Coordinate, oversee, provide technical assistance, and monitor the RAEDs and LGU ABE Offices in the preparation/updating and implementation of regional/local

agri-fisheries mechanization programs, FMR network plans, agricultural and biosystems engineering master plans, local irrigation master plans, Renewable Energy Program for Agri-Fisheries Sector (REPAFS) and other ABE Masterplans/Programs;

Agri-Fisheries Engineering pursuant to RA No. 10915 (Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Act of 2016), in addition to the above, include: 1) Agri-Fisheries Engineering R and D; 2) Agri-Fisheries Training and Extension; 3) Soil and Water Conservation Engineering; 4) Agricultural and Biosystems Buildings and Structures; 5) Agricultural and Bioprocess Engineering; 6) Food Engineering; 7) Renewable/Bio-Energy and Farm Electrification; 8) Agricultural and Biological Waste Management; Fisheries and Aquaculture Engineering; 9) Agricultural and Biosystems Automation and Instrumentation; 10) Agricultural and Bio-Information System; 11) Agrometeorology; and 12) Agricultural and Biological Resource Conservation and Management.

**Other Agri-Fisheries Infrastructure** include irrigation, production facilities (greenhouse/screen house, livestock housing, etc.), and post-harvest facilities (dryers, slaughterhouses, cold storages, etc). These are funded by DA's banner programs and other government agencies. These are also the Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFP) of DA and approved by the NEDA Board.

- a.2. In collaboration with concerned agencies such as the Department of Finance (DOF), DBM, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DoTr), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), DILG, Department of Energy (DOE), and other stakeholders, the BAFE shall identify and prioritize key clustered agricultural and fishery production areas for the development of the infrastructure needs, such as but not limited to irrigation systems, roads, ports and bulk transport system, farm electrification and postharvest processing and storage facilities, to accelerate agricultural and fishery mechanization development in the countryside
- a.3. Serves as the Program Management Office (PMO) of the DA's Farm-to-Market Road Development Program (FMRDP). Relative to national FMR planning, coordination, and

monitoring, the BAFE also serves as 1) Chairman of the National Coordination and Monitoring Committee on the formulation, implementation, and updating of the National Network of Farm-to-Market Roads (Joint DA-DPWH-DILG-DTI and DOT Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2023); and 2) Head of the I-Build Component of the Philippine Rural Development Project.

- a.4. Serves also as 1) PMO on the promotion of Agri-Fisheries Machinery and Equipment Service Centers (DA AO No. 15, s. of 2020); 2) formulate guidelines and undertake farm development planning and implementation and monitoring of contiguous farming (Sec. 34 of RA No. 10601 and its IRR; 3) Coordinates and monitors the planning and implementation of the agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment funded by various banner programs and concerned DA bureaus, attached agencies and corporations; and 4) Secretariat and PMO of the Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Assembly and Local Manufacturing Industry Road Map of the Philippines 2022-2036 (DA AO No. 12, series of 2022).
- a.5. Generate, update, and maintain a national information database of agricultural and fishery machinery and infrastructure including irrigation, production, and post-harvest facilities through the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Management Information System (ABEMIS);
- b) Prepares, evaluates, validates, and recommends engineering plans, designs, and technical specifications of agri-fisheries mechanization and infrastructure projects. In line with this, the BAFE:
  - b.1. Prepares engineering plans, designs, and technical specifications of agri-fisheries mechanization and infrastructure projects; and requested by RAEDs and LGU ABEs for funding by BAFE;
  - b.2. Provide and/or issue technical bulletins and modular designs that will serve as a reference in the preparation and evaluation of agricultural, fisheries, and biosystems mechanization and infrastructure projects by the RAEDs and LGU ABE Offices;
  - b.3. Reviews, evaluates, and validates Detailed Engineering Design (DED) and Program of Works (POW) of agri-fishery infrastructures submitted by RAEDs and LGU ABE Offices;

- b.4. Reviews and evaluated technical specifications of agri-fishery machinery for authority to procure submitted by RAEDs and LGU Offices;
  - b.5. Monitors the implementation of the Guidelines on the Preparation and Evaluation of Feasibility Study of Agri-Fisheries Infrastructure and Mechanization Projects (DA MO No. 61, series of 2020)
  - b.6. Coordinates, oversees, and monitors at the national level the implementation of valuation of agri-fishery machinery and infrastructure (DA AO No. 20, S. of 2022)
- c) Coordinates and monitors at the national level the enforcement of standards on agricultural and fishery engineering. Along this, the BAFE shall:
- c.1. Enforces the National List of the Philippine National Standards (PNS)/Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards (PABES) in the technical regulations for agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure projects; and together with the DA RAED-Standard Regulations and Enforcement Section (SRES) and LGU ABE Offices, monitors the enforcement of standards on all agricultural and fisheries machinery, infrastructures and other agricultural and biosystems engineering projects included in the National List (Department Circular No.15, s. 2020 - Guidelines for the Establishment, adoption, and Enforcement of the National List of PNS/PABES);
  - c.2. Issue Certificate of Conformity (Section 18 and 21 of RA No. 10601 and Department Circular No. 19, series of 2018); and
  - c.3. Undertake compliance Monitoring on the Enforcement of PNS/PABES of the design, construction, repair, and maintenance of Agricultural Buildings (DA AO No. 2, series of 2023);
- d) Coordinates and monitors at the national level the enforcement of other regulatory policies on agricultural and fishery engineering. Along this, the BAFE shall:
- d.1 Conduct after-sales service Monitoring with LGUs (Section 17, RA No. 10601);
  - d.2. Ensure the compliance of all agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers, sales and distribution outlets, and manufacturing establishments on the required

manpower complement of agricultural and biosystems engineers and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)-certified agri-fishery machinery operators and technicians (Rule 13.1, IRR of RA No. 10601 and DOLE, DA, and TESDA JMC No. 2, series of 2021.

- d.3. Formulate and implement Occupational Safety and Health Standards on the agri-fishery mechanization and infrastructure projects in coordination with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- e) Implements accreditation and registration scheme for agriculture and fishery machinery, tools, and equipment, in coordination with technology generators. Relative to this, the BAFE coordinates and monitors at the national level the registration of agri-fishery machinery owners at the city and municipal LGUs and serves as the national repository of the registry of agricultural and fishery machinery. (Section 19, RA 10601 and its IRR and DA-DILG JMC No. 1. s. 2018);
- f) Issues permit to operate (PTO) to agriculture and fishery tools and equipment manufacturers, fabricators, assemblers, importers, dealers, and distributors (Section 24 h and 20, RA No. 10601, and Department Circular No. 4, s. 2019);
- g) Coordinates oversees, and monitors at the national level the strengthening, establishment, and operations of RAEDs, LGU ABE Offices, and the capacity development of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Groups of BARMM;
- h) Pursues ABE Manpower Development as the implementation of agri-fisheries mechanization and infrastructures requires an adequate number of skilled and competent workforce composed of agricultural and biosystems engineers, agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians, and other support personnel. As such, the BAFE, in accordance with RA No. 10601 and its IRR, and other related laws and policy issuances shall:
  - h.1 Spearhead capacity development of the required manpower complement of ABEs and AF machinery operators and technicians (Sec. 13, RA No. 10601; DOLE, DA and TESDA JMC No. 2, series of 2021; and DA-TESDA-AMMDA and PSABE MOA);
  - h.2. Spearhead Career Progression and Specialization Program of DA ABEs (DA AO 19, s. 2022);

- h.3. Implement with DOLE, the Government Internship Program for ABE Youth. As such the BAFE shall deploy interns to RAEDs and LGUs. (DA and DOLE MOA); and
- h.4. Accredited Test Engineers (Section 10, Department Circular No. 5, series of 2017)
- i. Ensure complementation and convergence of activities of the different agencies implementing agricultural and Biosystems engineering programs and projects.

**4.2. Functions and Responsibilities of RAEDs-** Pursuant to Section 24 of RA No. 10601 and DA Memorandum No. 36, Series of 2022, the RAED of DA-RFOs shall:

- a) Undertake the field implementation of agri-fisheries mechanization and infrastructure programs and projects funded by DA banner programs and RFOs;
- b) Generate, update, and maintain regional information database of agricultural and fishery machinery and infrastructure including irrigation, production, and post-harvest facilities, and encode them in the ABEMIS;
- c) In collaboration with BAFE, coordinate, supervise, monitor, and provide technical assistance to LGUs on the establishment and the strengthening of operation of ABE Groups/Office;
- d) Coordinate, oversee, provide technical assistance, and monitor the LGU ABE Offices in the preparation/updating and implementation of local agri-fisheries mechanization programs, FMR Network plans, agricultural and biosystems engineering master plans, local irrigation master plans, REPAFS and other Masterplans/Programs.
- e) Provide technical assistance in the organization and operation of the Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (CAFMech) formerly Agricultural and Fishery Mechanization Committee (AFMeC) of the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council and shall serve as Vice Chairperson and Secretariat of said the Committee; and
- f) Augment and perform manpower requirements for the operation of the provincial, city, and municipal ABE offices, in the case of municipal LGUs belonging to the fourth up to the sixth income classes which are not capable of establishing their agricultural



engineering division/section due to financial constraints until such time that they can already perform the function.

The augmentation of manpower requirements will be covered by a separate guidelines.

- g) Moreover, in coordination with BAFE, RAEDs shall:
- g.1. Spearhead the Regional planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the National Agricultural and Fishery Mechanization Program (NAFMP), FMR Network Plans, REPAFS and agri-fisheries infrastructure master plans, programs and projects. Along this, it shall coordinate, provide technical assistance, and monitor the LGU ABE Units in the preparation/updating and implementation of these plans;
  - g.2. Develop, coordinate, and supervise the establishment, operation, and maintenance of Agri-Fishery Machinery and Equipment Service Centers (AFMESC) and land laser leveling projects in strategic locations of the regions.
  - g.3. Conduct inspection, performance testing, and evaluation of agricultural, fisheries, and Biosystems machinery and equipment.
  - g.4. Assist in the implementation and enforcement of agricultural and fisheries engineering regulations which include the following:
    - g.4.1. Enforcement of PNS/PABES and other relevant standards on agricultural and fishery engineering;
    - g.4.2. Coordination supervision, and monitoring of the City and Municipal Building Officials on the enforcement of PNS/PAES/PABES and RA No. 10915 in the evaluation and processing of application permits and certificate of occupancy of agricultural, fishery, and biosystems buildings and structures in coordination and collaboration with LGU ABE Units/Offices;
    - g.4.3. Monitoring at the regional level the compliance on the provision of after-sales service and warranty of concerned agricultural and fisheries machinery manufacturers, fabricators, assemblers, distributors, dealers, importers, and exporters (MFADDIEs);



**4.3. Functions and Responsibilities of the Office of Provincial Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer (OPABE)-** Pursuant to Section 29 of RA No. 10601, Joint DA, DBM, CSC, and DILG Memorandum Circular and CSC MC No. 12, series of 2022, the Provincial ABE Office shall:

- a) Provide ABE services which include engineering surveys, preparation and evaluation of plans, designs, technical specifications, feasibility studies, and cost estimates/program of work of soil and water conservation projects (small water impounding projects, diversion dams, communal irrigation system, bio-engineering for flood control); agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research centers; post-harvest facilities (MPDP), warehouse, slaughterhouses and for fishing communities (municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants and cold storage fish processing establishments): agri-fisheries machinery and equipment Service Centers; farm-to-market roads; agricultural and biological waste management facilities (biogas, composting, etc); and ABE interventions/projects for local climate change action plan (REPAFS, precision agriculture, etc.). These cover two or more municipalities or have province-wide coverage. These shall be funded by the provincial LGU or other sources.
- b) Administer, supervise, and coordinate the construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, and management of soil and water conservation projects (small water impounding projects, diversion dams, communal irrigation system, bio-engineering for flood control); agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research centers; post-harvest facilities (MPDP, warehouse, slaughterhouses and for fishing communities (municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants, and cold storage fish processing establishments: agri-fisheries machinery and equipment Service Centers; farm-to-market roads; agricultural and biological waste management facilities (biogas, composting, etc); and ABE interventions/projects for local climate change action plan (REPAFS, precision agriculture, etc.). These cover two or more municipalities or province-wide coverage and are funded by the provincial LGU;
- c) Undertake agricultural and biosystems engineering regulatory activities such as:
  - c.1. Supervision of the province-wide registration of agri-fishery machinery owners; fish hatcheries, fish breeding facilities, and private fishponds; and the registration and licensing of all fishery post-harvest facilities (fish processing plants, ice

- plants, cold storages, fish ports/ landings) which are being registered or licensed by the city and municipal LGUs through their ABE Units/Offices. Along with this, maintain a provincial registration database on the ABEMIS;
- c.2. Enforcement of PABEs in the provincial LGU procurement of agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure projects;
  - c.3. Supervision and monitoring the enforcement of PABES in building permits by the city and local building officials in collaboration with City and Municipal LGU ABE Offices/Units;
  - c.4. Assistance to BAFE and RAED in province-wide after-sales service monitoring and surveillance of application for a PTO of MFADDIE; and
  - c.5. Inspection, performance testing, and evaluation of agricultural and biosystems machinery and equipment procured by the provincial LGUs.
- d) Provide trainings and extension activities to farmers and fisherfolk, particularly in the installation, operation, and maintenance of their irrigation, postharvest facilities, agricultural, fishery, and biosystems machinery projects in coordination with the agriculture and fisheries extension workers. Specifically, it shall:
- d.1. Coordinate or conduct training of ABEs in the province for accreditation as Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trainers and competency assessors;
  - d.2. Facilitate/coordinate with TESDA on the accreditation of AFMech/ABE TVET training and assessment centers; ATI for mechanized/ABEdized learning sites and DOT for farm tourism sites; and accredited TVET training and assessment centers for the certification of farmers and fisherfolks for National Certificate (NC) of appropriate AFMech/ABE training regulations
- e) Undertake and/or coordinate the pilot testing and commercialization of matured agricultural, fisheries, and biosystems engineering technologies at the provincial level, and in line with this, assist DA in the implementation of National Agri-Fisheries Mechanization RDE programs and projects;
- f) Maintain and regularly update the provincial databank on irrigation, post-harvest facilities, agricultural and fishery machinery, and equipment, and agricultural and biosystems infrastructure projects through the ABEMIS;

- g) Formulate Provincial Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Plans for the approval of the Sanggunian, and facilitate its inclusion in the Provincial Development Plan, and Provincial Annual Investment Plan;
- h) Formulate Provincial ABE Master Plan/Program for the approval of the Sanggunian pursuant to Joint DA-DILG MC No. 11, series of 2004 in relation to RA No. 10915. The master plan/program which supports and complements the Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Local Development Program, Local Food Security and Agri-Fisheries Modernization Plans, shall have the following sub-components: (1) agricultural, fishery and biosystems mechanization; (2) soil and water conservation, and irrigation; (3) farm-to-market road or farm access road development; (4) post-harvest, agro-processing and agro-industrial development; (5) agricultural and biological waste utilization and management; and (6) farm electrification and bio/renewable-energy development. Moreover, facilitates its inclusion in the Provincial Development Program, and Provincial Annual Investment Program; and
- i) Coordinate, oversee, provide technical assistance, and monitor the Municipal and City LGU ABE Offices in the preparation/updating and implementation of local agri-fisheries mechanization programs, FMR network plans, agricultural and biosystems engineering master plans, local irrigation master plans, REPAFS and other ABE Master Plans / Programs.

**4.4. Functions and Responsibilities of City Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Office (OCABE)-** Pursuant to Section 29 of RA No. 10601, Joint DA, DBM, CSC, and DILG Memorandum Circular and CSC MC No. 12, series of 2022, the OCABE shall:

- a) Provide ABE services which include engineering survey, preparation, and evaluation of plans, designs, technical specifications, feasibility studies, and cost estimates/program of work of soil and water conservation projects (small water impounding projects, diversion dams, communal irrigation system, bio-engineering for flood control); agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research centers; post-harvest facilities (MPDP), warehouse, slaughterhouses and for fishing communities (municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants, and cold storage fish processing establishments); agri-fisheries machinery and equipment Service Centers; farm-to-market roads; agricultural and biological waste management facilities (biogas, composting, etc); and ABE interventions/projects for city climate change action plan (REPAFS, precision agriculture, etc.). These have city-wide coverage and are to be funded by the city LGU or other sources.

- b) Administer, supervise, and coordinate the construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, and management of soil and water conservation projects (small water impounding projects, diversion dams, communal irrigation system, bio-engineering for flood control); agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research centers; post-harvest facilities (MPDP), warehouse, slaughterhouses and for fishing communities (municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants and cold storage fish processing establishments): agri-fisheries machinery and equipment Service Centers; farm-to-market roads; agricultural and biological waste management facilities (biogas, composting, etc); and ABE interventions/projects for city climate change action plan (REPAFS, precision agriculture, etc.). These have city-wide coverage and are funded by the City LGU or other sources;
  
- c) Undertake agricultural and biosystems engineering regulatory activities such as:
  - c.1. Undertake the city-wide registration of agri-fishery machinery owners; and in coordination with BFAR, registration of fish hatcheries, fish breeding facilities, and private fishponds, and the registration and licensing of all fishery post-harvest facilities (fish processing plants, ice plants, cold storages, fish ports/ landings).
  - c.2. Enforcement of PABES in the City LGU procurement of agri-fisheries machinery, irrigation, and agri-fisheries infrastructure projects;
  - c.3. Ensure with city building officials the enforcement of PABES in the issuance of building permits for agricultural and biosystems buildings in collaboration with the OPABE and RAED;
  - c.4. Assist BAFE, RAED, and provincial ABE Unit in city-wide after-sales service monitoring and application for a PTO of MFADDIE; and
  - c.5. Inspect, and undertake performance testing and evaluation of agricultural and biosystems machinery and equipment procured by the city LGU.
  
- d) Provide training and extension activities to farmers and fisherfolk, particularly in the installation, operation, and maintenance of their irrigation, postharvest facilities, agricultural, fishery, and biosystems machinery projects in coordination with the agriculture and fisheries extension workers. Specifically, it shall:

- d.1. Coordinate or conduct training of ABEs in the city for accreditation as TVET trainers and competency assessors; and
- d.2. Facilitate/coordinate with TESDA on the accreditation of AFMech/ABE TVET training and assessment centers; ATI for mechanized/ABEdized learning sites and DOT for farm tourism sites; and accredited TVET training and assessment centers for the certification of farmers and fisherfolks for NC of appropriate AFMech/ABE training regulations.
- e) Undertake and/or coordinate the pilot testing and commercialization of matured agricultural, fisheries, and biosystems engineering technologies within the city, and in line with this, assist DA in the implementation of National Agri-Fisheries Mechanization RDE programs and projects;
- f) Maintain and regularly update the city databank on irrigation, post-harvest facilities, agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment, and agricultural and biosystems infrastructure projects through the ABEMIS;
- g) Formulate City Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Plans for the approval of the Sanggunian and facilitate its inclusion in the City Development Program and City Annual Investment Program; and
- h) Formulate City ABE Master Plan/Program for approval by the Sanggunian pursuant to Joint DA-DILG MC No. 11, series of 2004 in relation to RA No. 10915. The master plan/program which supports and complements the Comprehensive Land Use Plans, City Development Plans, City Food Security and Agri-Fisheries Modernization Plans shall have the following sub-components: (1) agricultural, fishery and biosystems mechanization; (2) soil and water conservation and irrigation; (3) farm-to-market road or farm access road development; (4) post-harvest, agro-processing and agro-industrial development; (5) agricultural and biological waste utilization and management; and (6) farm electrification and bio/renewable-energy development. Moreover, facilitates its inclusion in the City Development Program and City Annual Investment Program.

#### **4.5. Functions and Responsibilities of the Office of Municipal Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer (OMABE)**

Pursuant to Section 29 of RA No. 10601 and Joint DA, DBM, CSC, and DILG Memorandum Circular and CSC MC No. 12, series of 2022, the Municipal ABE Office shall:

- a) Provide ABE services which include engineering survey, preparation and evaluation of plans, designs, technical specifications, feasibility studies, and cost estimates/program of work of soil and water conservation projects (small water impounding projects, diversion dams, communal irrigation system, bio-engineering for flood control); agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research centers; post-harvest facilities (MPDP), warehouse, slaughterhouses and for fishing communities (municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants, and cold storage fish processing establishments): agri-fisheries machinery and equipment Service Centers; farm-to-market roads; agricultural and biological waste management facilities (biogas, composting, etc); and ABE interventions/projects for municipal climate change action plan (REPAFS, precision agriculture, etc.). These have municipal-wide coverage and are to be funded by the Municipal LGU or other sources;
- b) Administer, supervise, and coordinate the construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, and management of soil and water conservation projects (small water impounding projects, diversion dams, communal irrigation system, bio-engineering for flood control); agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructure of extension and on-site research centers; post-harvest facilities (MPDP), warehouse, slaughterhouses and for fishing communities (municipal fish landing sites, fish ports, ice plants and cold storage fish processing establishments): agri-fisheries machinery and equipment service centers; farm-to-market roads; agricultural and biological waste management facilities (biogas, composting, etc); and ABE interventions/projects for Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (REPAFS, precision agriculture, etc.). These projects are within the municipality and funded by the Municipal LGU and other sources;
- c) Undertake agricultural and biosystems engineering regulatory activities such as:
  - c.1. Undertake the municipal-wide registration of agri-fishery machinery owners; fish hatcheries, fish breeding facilities, and private fishponds; and the registration and licensing of all fishery post-harvest facilities (fish processing plants, ice plants, cold storages, fish ports/ landings);
  - c.2. Enforcement of PABES in the Municipal LGU procurement of agri-fisheries machinery and infra projects;
  - c.3. Ensure with municipal building officials the enforcement of PABES in the issuance of building permits for agricultural and



biosystems buildings in collaboration with the provincial ABE Unit and RAED;

- c.4. Assist BAFE and RAED in municipal-wide after-sales service monitoring of MFADDIE;
  - c.5. Inspection, performance testing, and evaluation of agricultural and biosystems machinery and equipment procured by the municipal LGU; and
  - c.6. Assist BAFE, RAED, and provincial ABE Unit in surveillance of application for a permit to operate MFADDIE.
- d) Provide training and extension activities to farmers and fisherfolk, particularly in the installation, operation, and maintenance of their irrigation, postharvest facilities, agricultural, fishery, and biosystems machinery projects in coordination with the agriculture and fisheries extension workers. Specifically, it shall:
- d.1. Coordinate or conduct training of ABEs in the municipality for accreditation as TVET trainers and competency assessors; and
  - d.2. Facilitate/coordinate with TESDA on the accreditation of AFMech/ABE TVET training and assessment centers; ATI for mechanized/ ABEdized learning sites and DOT for farm tourism sites; and accredited TVET training and assessment centers for the certification of farmers and fisherfolks for NC of appropriate AFMech/ABE training regulations.
- e) Undertake and/or coordinate the pilot testing and commercialization of matured agricultural, fisheries, and biosystems engineering technologies at the municipal level, and in line with this, assist DA in the implementation of National Agri-Fisheries Mechanization RDE programs and projects;
- f) Maintain and regularly update the municipal databank on irrigation, post-harvest facilities, agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment, and agricultural and biosystems infrastructure projects through the ABEMIS;
- g) Formulate Municipal Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Plan for approval by the Sanggunian and facilitate its inclusion in the Municipal Development Program and Municipal Annual Investment Program; and
- h) Formulate Municipal ABE Master Plan/Program for the approval of the Sanggunian pursuant to Joint DA-DILG MC No. 11, series of 2004

in relation to RA No. 10915. The master plan/program which supports and complements the Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Municipal Development Program, Municipal Food Security and Agr-Fisheries Modernization Plans shall have the following sub-components: (1) agricultural, fishery and biosystems mechanization; (2) soil and water conservation and irrigation; (3) farm-to-market road or farm access road development; (4) post-harvest, agro-processing, and agro-industrial development; (5) agricultural and biological waste utilization and management; and (6) farm electrification, and bio/renewable-energy development. Moreover, facilitates its inclusion in the Municipal Development Program and Municipal Annual Investment Program

**SECTION 5.0. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any provisions of this Joint Memorandum Circular are declared invalid, the other provisions not affected and shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 6.0. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All existing Administrative Orders, issuances, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, in conflict with or inconsistent with any provision of this Joint Memorandum Circular, are hereby repealed, modified, or amended, accordingly.

**SECTION 7.0. DISSEMINATION**


The Regional Directors of DA in coordination with their DILG counterpart shall cause the widest dissemination of this Joint Memorandum Circular to all LGUs within their area of responsibility.

**SECTION 7.0. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Done this 2nd day of August, 2024.

  
**FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, Jr.**  
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

  
**ATTY. BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, Jr.**  
Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government

