



DEPARTMENT ORDER

No. 01

Series of 2025

SUBJECT : CREATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES LOGISTICS OFFICE

In the exigency of public service and in alignment with the Department of Agriculture's strategic agenda to promote food security, develop an efficient system for managing both input and production output, the Agricultural and Fisheries Logistics Office (AFLO) is hereby established.

Pursuant to the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8435), which mandates the modernization of the agriculture and fisheries sectors to enhance global competitiveness, sustainability, and operational efficiency, the creation of this Office aims to address critical challenges such as post-harvest losses, elevated market prices, and farm-to-market inefficiencies. The AFLO will integrate logistics operations within the Department to oversee and streamline the movement of agricultural commodities. It will also implement a logistics coordination and monitoring system to enable real-time tracking, enhance transparency, and ensure traceability throughout the supply chain, effectively addressing issues such as smuggling and other logistical inefficiencies within the sector.

The AFLO is tasked with planning, coordinating, and implementing logistical strategies that optimize agricultural supply chains, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve market linkages. Its ultimate goal is to support the growth and sustainability of the country's agricultural and fisheries sectors, contributing to the attainment of national food security. To this end, the Office shall perform the following functions:

1. AFLO is entrusted with strategic planning and development, focusing on long-term strategies to enhance and develop the Agri-Fisheries Logistics Program Plan. This includes formulating policies, integrating advanced technologies, and introducing smart logistics using AI tools, and machine to optimize agricultural supply chains efficiently;
2. Facilitates collaboration between the DA, relevant stakeholders and other concerned government bodies to ensure seamless logistics operations across the agricultural sector. This role is crucial in promoting public-private partnerships, which are essential for identifying and implementing appropriate interventions in strategic locations;
3. Responsible for overseeing the establishment and maintenance of essential facilities, such as Cold Storage Warehouses (CSWs), Food Hubs, and Distribution Centers, with the objective of enhancing consumer accessibility. Promote investment in cold storage facilities, warehouses, processing plants, terminals, tramlines, *bagsakan* centers, post-

harvest facilities, slaughterhouses, and port development and upgrading to better manage the food supply chain;

4. Enhance linkages in partnership with local governments, private sector entities, and other government agencies. The AFLO will focus on improving transportation routes, optimizing logistics networks, and reducing transportation costs;

5. Monitor, assess, and evaluate port-related Agri-Fisheries Logistics operations in collaboration with PFDA and BFAR and other relevant government agencies to ensure efficiency in the handling and transportation of agricultural products through ports;

6. AFLO coordinates and monitors all logistics-related activities within the DA to ensure alignment with the Department's strategic goals and the efficient execution of projects and programs. This includes regular reporting and assessments to track progress and make necessary adjustments;

7. Ensure adherence to local and international laws and policies in Agri-Fisheries Logistics operations. Recommend quality control measures to maintain product integrity and safety during transportation and storage. Monitor agricultural imports and scale up anti-smuggling measures;

8. Provide comprehensive guidelines and support for streamlining the issuance of permits and licenses related to food, including its transport and storage. This involves developing standardized procedures and protocols to simplify and expedite the approval process;

9. Develop emergency response as part of its crisis management plans to address disruptions in the supply chain caused by natural disasters, pandemics, or other crises. It identifies risks and implements mitigation strategies to safeguard logistics operations;

10. Facilitate training programs to ensure that storage facilities are properly managed and maintained. This includes training on best practices for facility management, maintenance, and operations;

11. Disseminate pertinent information to enhance transparency, and to raise awareness of the DA's logistics operations on the nation's food supply chain to foster a supportive environment for all stakeholders;

12. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the Secretary

Further, the establishment of the Agricultural and Fisheries Logistics Office (AFLO) is crucial for addressing crucial challenges in agri-fishery supply chains, thereby promoting stability in the food supply.

Furthermore, all expenses for the 2025 operation will be chargeable against AFLO funds subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This order shall take effect immediately, all orders, memoranda, and issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 15th day of JAN . 2025


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.

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