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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 08

Series of 2025

**SUBJECT : SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES TO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 04
SERIES OF 2024, IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL URBAN AND PERI-
URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (NUPAP)**

WHEREAS, the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP) was created as a banner program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) pursuant to Administrative Order No. 03, Series of 2022, to foster food and nutrition security, food safety, and economic development in urban and peri-urban areas;

WHEREAS, the operating units of the NUPAP adhere to the DA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 04, Series of 2024 to implement the Program;

WHEREAS, the NUPAP focuses on food production, which covers crop, livestock and fisheries, in urban and peri-urban areas, definitions of which are outlined in the DA MC No. 04, Series of 2024;

WHEREAS, the NUPAP prioritizes areas that are densely populated, impoverished, and food-insufficient;

WHEREAS, the NUPAP encourages the use of innovative, and modernized farming technologies especially in areas with limited agricultural lands and high market demand;

WHEREAS, interventions, especially infrastructure projects, shall be built with quality and shall be stewarded properly by the beneficiaries to ensure return of investment and sustainable operations;

WHEREAS, the NUPAP needs increased support amidst increasing population, urbanization, and food insecurity;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions mentioned above, the Section 7 of the DA MC No. 04, Series of 2024 is hereby enhanced to include the following:

F. Sustainability Mechanisms

In order to sustain the operations of urban and peri-urban food production systems, it has to be treated as a social enterprise, that is, not only it is income-generating and a livelihood, but also an avenue for educating communities and citizens taking part in the food security movement of the country for the continuous adoption of applicable farming practices. The Program also aims to foster environmental consciousness among participants, hence, compliance to standards is imperative.

1. Roadmap Development

It is vital that the urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Philippines is steered by a roadmap to define the goals of the industry and align each stakeholder's participation. This will also outline the steps towards achieving the objectives and will serve as a guide to monitor if the desired impacts are being realized.

The NUPAP Program Management Office shall spearhead the crafting of a roadmap to be participated by its implementing units and stakeholders including the local government units, community-based groups, academic institutions, among others.

2. Compliance to Standards

The Philippine National Standard Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) — Code of Practice (COP) — Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) (PNS/BAFS 389:2024) reinforces urban and peri-urban growers to adhere to practices that render food safety, food quality, environmental sustainability, and farmers' health and safety.

The contents of the PNS/BAFS 389:2024 shall be included in the training activities facilitated by the operating units of the NUPAP. In addition, the beneficiaries of the Program shall be endorsed to the regulatory divisions of each operating unit to facilitate application for a PhilGAP Certification.

Furthermore, this quality assurance leverages urban and peri-urban farms and provides opportunities to be linked to large market players. It is also envisioned that these PhilGAP certified farms could produce export quality commodities.

3. Reinforcing Integrated Pest Management (IPM), organic agriculture, and use of renewable energy

The NUPAP will actively promote IPM and organic agriculture as sustainable approaches to urban food production. The program will implement capacity-building initiatives and production support services on pest control management, pest population assessment and ecosystem-based pest control strategies. Additionally, it will support the use of composting, vermiculture, crop rotation, and companion planting to enhance soil health and biodiversity. To further support smart farming technologies, the program will advocate for renewable energy solutions such as solar-powered irrigation systems, energy-efficient greenhouses, and biogas production to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources. By combining eco-friendly agricultural practices with innovative energy solutions, the Program aims to build a resilient, climate-smart urban farming ecosystem that supports food security, environmental health, and long-term sustainability.

4. Formation of Clusters and Market Linkage

The formation of the urban and peri-urban agriculture clusters is one of the key strategies to strengthen the program by improving coordination, resource-sharing, and market-access for urban farmers. The operating units shall coordinate with the regional Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) Program and with the local government units concerned to form the clusters.

A cluster-based approach will help the Program build strong farming communities and create a more viable food system for both farmers and consumers.

Urban and peri-urban farms shall be linked to the market by tying them up with the KADIWA program of the DA Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) or equivalent local project or activity. The Operating Units shall identify institutional buyers and market players that could be connected to the urban and peri-urban farms.



5. Enhancing digital literacy and developing technology demonstration sites

The operating units of the NUPAP shall implement continuous capacitation initiatives to enhance digital literacy among stakeholders through the Agricultural Training Institute, ensuring effective utilization of modern technologies for sustainable urban farming. To support this initiative, the program will focus on developing learning sites and technology demonstration sites in various regions that serve as knowledge-sharing hubs for innovative urban farming techniques and showcase advanced agricultural practices such as hydroponics, aquaponics, vertical farming, and climate-smart agriculture systems. Through these initiatives, the program seeks to empower urban farmers and stakeholders to integrate digital innovations into agriculture, fostering a more resilient and technology-driven urban food system.

All other provisions in MC No. 04, Series of 2024 shall remain in order.

These supplemental provisions shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing. All orders, memoranda, and issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 20th day of March 2025.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



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