

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

MC # 65 S. 2002

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS, HEADS OF
DEPARTMENTS AND STAFFS, REGIONAL
IRRIGATION MANAGERS, OPERATIONS/PROJECT
MANAGERS, IRRIGATION SUPERINTENDENTS,
PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION ENGINEERS AND ALL
OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : DESIGNATION OF THE ZONAL RESEARCH CENTERS
FOR AGRICULTURE (ZRCAs)

Quoted hereunder in full for your information and guidance is the Administrative Order No. 24 S. 2002 from the Secretary of Agriculture dated September 30, 2002 re: Designation of the Zonal Research Centers for Agriculture (ZRCAs):

"Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100
Philippines

30 September 2002

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 24
Series of 2002

SUBJECT : DESIGNATION OF THE ZONAL RESEARCH CENTERS
FOR AGRICULTURE (ZRCAs)

In the interest of the service, and to support the national government's initiative to consolidate and integrate all Research, Development and Extension (RDE) programs and activities in both national and regional levels under the "one system, one program" in agriculture, the Zonal Research Centers for Agriculture (ZRCA) are hereby designated under the following premises and guidelines:

1. A ZRCA shall be designated each for Luzon (DA – RFU 2: Cagayan Valley Integrated Agricultural Research Center – San Felipe, Ilagan, Isabela), Visayas (DA – RFU 8: Eastern Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center – Tacloban City),

and Mindanao (DA – RFU 10: Northern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center - Dalwangan, Malaybalay, Bukidnon). The activities of the ZRCA shall be an added functions of the identified RIARC so it can maintain its defined functions as a Regional R&D network.

2. The purposes and objectives of the ZRCA shall include but not limited to the following:
 - 2.1 To promote an integrated research agenda program in the zone through the RIARCs to address cross regional issues and problems in R&D that are zonal in scope;
 - 2.2 To decentralize decision-making in R&D planning, monitoring & evaluation, and implementation of research and development projects in the zone;
 - 2.3 To evolve a system of coordination and management among agricultural research centers based at the zone; and
 - 2.4 To recommend R&D policies for adoption at the zonal and national level.
3. The ZRCA shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 Provide technical assistance to the various RIARCs in terms of planning, implementation and evaluation of its agricultural research and development programs/projects;
 - 3.2 Assist BAR in monitoring on-going R&D projects/researches to ensure that the mechanisms, resources and timetables are observed;
 - 3.3 Facilitate the conduct of training programs aimed at building the capabilities of research manpower of the various RIARCs;
 - 3.4 Serve as conduit between and among RIARCs regarding their research/networking linkage activities;
 - 3.5 Develop zonal facilities such as laboratories, stock farms, electronic database information system to service the needs of the different regions within the zone;
 - 3.6 Continuously explore workable strategies to improve the research environment in its area of operation; and
 - 3.7 Conduct zonal R&D reviews, workshops and conferences/meetings.
4. To ensure sustainability and to efficiently utilize the limited manpower available, the office of the ZRCA shall be based at the Main RIARC of the Department of Agriculture and as such, some existing research staff of the Main RIARC shall be tapped to compose the ZRCAs.
 - 4.1 A Zonal Technical Advisory Committee shall be created and chaired by the Regional Executive Director of the identified host/zonal region. The Zonal Technical Advisory Committee shall comprise of all other REDs in other zones and key representatives of private sector and NGOs.
 - 4.2 A Vice chair shall be selected from among the Regional Executive Directors of the other regions. The RIARC Manager of the host region shall assist the Chair.
 - 4.3 Selected personnel of the Main RIARC shall be designated to compose the staff/secretariat of the ZRCA. The Asst. RIARC Manager for Technical Programs shall head the ZRCA Secretariat.
 - 4.4 The identified Commodity/Discipline Teams (both from the DA and its partner regional SCU) of the Regional RDE Network for Agriculture shall compose the pool of technical/advisory experts/specialists of the ZRCAs.
 - 4.5 The existing designated personnel of the Main RIARC shall likewise provide the administrative and financial support to the ZRCAs.

- 4.6 When necessary, the ZRCA shall hire personnel on a contractual basis with monthly salary rates based on existing policy guidelines in the hiring of contractals.
5. The Mechanics for the initial Implementation of the ZRCA shall be as follows:
- 5.1 Upon approval of a Department Administrative Order creating ZRCA, it shall call the different RIARCs within its jurisdiction for a consultation meeting to discuss on the priority activities as well as immediate concerns related to R&D planning and implementation.
- 5.2 The operationalization of the ZRCAs shall start anytime within the first quarter of the year 2002 with the signing of the MOA between and among the identified RIARCs, BAR and the host RIARC, as the ZRCA.
- 5.3 BAR shall provide initial operational funds for the implementation of the zonal centers.
6. BAR shall provide a separate budget for the operation and maintenance of the ZRCA based on approved program of work.

Compliance herewith by all concerned is strictly enjoined.

This order shall take effect immediately.

(Sgd) **LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR**
Secretary"

Be guided accordingly.



JESUS EMMANUEL M. PARAS
Administrator

Date: October 23, 2002