Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(National Irrigation Administration)
Lungsod ng Quezon

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

M.C. # 47, Series 2011

TO : **THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, DEPARTMENT MANAGERS, REGIONAL IRRIGATION/OPERATIONS MANAGERS, PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

FROM : **THE ADMINISTRATOR**

SUBJECT : **FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT INSPECTION AND VALIDATION UNDER THE NIA SUPPORT PROGRAM TO THE FOOD STAPLE SUFFICIENCY ROADMAP 2011-2016**

As per Food Staple Sufficiency Roadmap 2011-2016 (FSSR), Government envisages to achieve full rice self-sufficiency end of 2013. MC-26 S-2011 specifies the physical targets as well as the interventions, actions and policies for the NIA support program to the FSSR. NIA's commitments to the FSSR include increasing serviceable and irrigated area, and increasing cropping intensity and palay yield.

NIA's accomplishments would increase harvested area and palay production, with 35 percent of the target palay production as its share. Success of the FSSR relies much on the deliverables of NIA—generated and restored serviceable area, and cropping intensity. To shore-up achievement of the NIA's commitments, this Office hereby adopts this Framework on Project Inspection and Validation (PIV).

Together with the adoption of this Framework is the creation of a Project Inspectorate and Advisory Group (PIAG), who will handle the PIV tasks. Functioning of the PIAG shall focus on the targets and interventions, policies and actions specified in the NIA's support program to the FSSR. Achieving the physical targets (e.g., harvested area) of NIA as per the FSSR represents the primary responsibility of the PIAG.

This Office enjoins full cooperation of all units and staff in the central and field offices for the productive and smooth PIAG functioning.

ANTONIO S. NANGEL
Administrator

Attached: as stated

Date: 19 September 2011

Framework for Project Inspection and Validation
[For the NIA Support Program to the Food Staple Sufficiency Roadmap]

Background Information

Government targets, as per the Food Staple Sufficiency Roadmap 2011-2016 (FSSR), to attain full rice self-sufficiency end of 2013. Years 2011-2013 thus are the most critical, given the unprecedented high targets in generated and restored serviceable area. Required NIA's share in the FSSR is to contribute 35 percent to the incremental 4.67 M mt of palay that needed produced within 2011-2013. This contribution would come from increase in harvested area and rice yield in expanded irrigation serviceable and irrigated area.

Within that critical period, NIA commits to generate 100T, restore 90T and rehab 140T ha of serviceable area at a total PhP 53 B budget. Considering the need to increase palay production soonest, generating, irrigating and streamlining serviceable area are essential. Generating serviceable area refers to establishment of irrigation systems in potential irrigable areas—with rainfed rice areas preferred. Preferred are small irrigation projects (SIPs), which can start irrigation operations after undergoing one or two years of construction.

Irrigating serviceable area refers to operating the irrigation systems to induce and sustain crop cultivation and multiple cropping. This covers both the generated and restored serviceable area, so readiness to irrigate such right after completing civil works is vital. In view of the FSSR demands, generation and restoration efforts should shift focus to areas that will not have to wait years to get water. Project execution should for aim quick and huge rollout of irrigated-cultivated instead of generated/restored serviceable area.

Streamlining serviceable area refers to adoption of interventions that would improve performance: cropping intensity and crop yield. Advocated interventions include irrigation rehabilitation cum modernization (IRM) and rice-rice-rice cropping pattern (R^3CP). In addition, these include rotational water distribution (RWD), sustainable irrigated agriculture (SIA) and weir-weir offtake retrofitting (W^2OR). Transcending generating/restoring serviceable area with irrigating/cultivating generated and restored serviceable area is the strategy.

Program Rationale

NIA gets the greater pie (67%) of the rice budget of the FSSR—signifying heavy dependence on the impact of irrigation development. High financial efficiency (lowest peso input per kg palay output) makes irrigation development a darling FSSR intervention. Given the required high (35%) NIA share of the target palay production volume within the critical period, NIA's performance is crucial. Commitment among field offices to achieve their respective share of the workload may exist but accomplishments matter most.

Generated and restored serviceable area needed validated as to accuracy of farm sizes, landowner names and location turnouts. Field offices thus should not overlook developing accurate parcellary maps—useful as basic operations and validation database. There is no substitute to delineating accomplishments on parcellary maps, since this will serve both in-house and external validation. Assessment of new irrigation systems, in fact, revealed that scant performance is attributable to lack of accurate parcellary maps.

Increasing cropping intensity, and palay yield and production soonest is as urgent as increasing serviceable and irrigated area. Project executors thus needed adoption of the advocated irrigation performance enhancing interventions named earlier. This reckons on the fact that irrigation development should not end at generating, restoring and rehabilitating serviceable area. It should encompass increasing irrigated area, cropping intensity, and palay yield—to improve farm income and farmers' lives.

NIA's physical accomplishments and procedural interventions, as envisaged, expand harvestable area and increase palay yield. These comprise the ultimate contributions of NIA, with heavy significance as to magnitude, to the rice commodity of the FSSR. Execution strategy comprising the complementary interventions, priority actions, and execution policies is shown in NIA MC-26 S-2011. What remains provided is a team of inspectors, who would validate adoption of said strategy and extent of project accomplishments.

Program Objectives

General – To achieve:

(a) Accurate reports by project executors on the size and location of generated, restored and irrigated serviceable area reflected on irrefutable parcellary maps
(b) Clear awareness by project executors of the demands of the rice commodity of the FSSR including the implementation strategy of the NIA support program

Specific – To achieve:

(a) Quick appraisal of the strategies and priorities in project execution by each responsibility center vis-à-vis attaining the demands of the NIA support program to the FSSR
(b) Quick resolution of any existing and emergent constraint including oversight to boost optimum and prompt performance in project development and execution

Implementation Mechanics

(a) Creation of a Project Inspectorate and Advisory Group (PIAG) who functions independent from the regular units handling project development and implementation. PIAG, with sub-teams positioned in central locations of their respective responsibility areas, shall get instructions from and report to the Administrator.
(b) Conduct of orientation briefing cum workshops for the PIAG on the execution strategy of the NIA support program to the rice commodity of the FSSR. This shall underscore the performance parameters and physical outputs that needed validation to include operations interventions that needed adoption.
(c) Validation by the PIAG shall dwell on the execution policies, priority actions, and complementary interventions named in the NIA support program to the FSSR. It also should dwell on the target accomplishments: generated, restored, rehabilitated and irrigated serviceable area including crop yield.

(d) Transparency in development and execution of projects is essential in validation so project executors should give the PIAG access to all documents thereon. Project executors should invite the PIAG during staff meetings to provide updates on project development and execution, and on any performance constraints.
(e) Determination of the extent of deliverables (e.g., generated and restored serviceable area within 2011 and irrigated starting 2012) is of utmost priority. This will show if project executors are mindful of the necessity of generating and restoring serviceable area fast and irrigating such right after such works.
(f) Validation of NIA accomplishments (e.g., generated serviceable area) for the rice commodity of the FSSR by the Department of Agriculture (DA) is expectable. Readiness needed assured by reflecting on parcellary maps extent and locations of project accomplishments, for reference in site inspection.
(g) Fast growth, with quality and functionality upheld, in irrigation development is a principle endeavored in the NIA support program to the FSSR. Validation therefore is necessary to determine if the project executors adopt the advocated module in irrigation rehabilitation cum modernization (IRM).

PIAG Tasks

(a) Formulation by the PIAG of an assessment template showing the parameters (e.g., irrigated area) and things (e.g., parcellary maps) that needed validated. This shall include laying-out a detailed but concise methodology in validating every performance indicators and operations intervention reported adopted. inspectorate
(b) Presentation by the PIAG of its output "project validation template and methodology" to the Program Management Committee (PMC) for critiquing. In addition, the PMC shall give suggestions on the matter by taking into consideration how to help the field offices achieve their targets.
(c) Briefing through PowerPoint by the PIAG of its enhanced project validation template and methodology for the regional and project managers, in a meeting. Heads and staff of IMOs and ISOs and staff of PMOs shall get similar technical briefing from the PIAG in meetings organized by the RIMs and PMs.
(d) Operations should get equal weight with construction in irrigation development, so the PIAG should assess the adoption of efficiency-enhancing interventions. Most important to validate are the physical and procedural interventions or modules employed by IMOs/ISOs to increasing cropping intensity and crop yield.
(e) Review of system operations plans like enforced cropping patterns, and operations and maintenance (O&M) plans should be an added task of the PIAG. This review will ascertain whether ISOs/IMOs are implementing rice-rice or rice-rice-rice cropping pattern to minimize distortion in reporting irrigated area.
(f) Restoration of inactive/delisted serviceable area to increase irrigated and harvested area is among the priority projects in the NIA support program. Determination if these projects have components on improving water supply besides facility repair and improvement should be another task of the PIAG.
(g) Success of the NIA support program depends on the performance of the project executors—in particular, the heads of RIOs, PMOs, IMOs and ISOs. To push performance, the PIAG shall propose a scheme with guidelines for the grant of PhP 1.0 million for the top two performing RIOs, PMOs and IMOs.
(h) Determination of the rice self-sufficiency status of each province is required by NIA MC-45 S-2009, so the PIAG should review the assumptions used thereon. Done together with other

concerned agencies, the PIAG should reassess the assumptions on base population, per capita consumption and milling recovery.

(i) Constraints in project development and execution and irrigation operations are inevitable, so the PIAG shall give insights on what needed done to resolve such. This is an adjunct objective of monitoring and validation works, so the PIAG should include a rundown of these constraints in its monthly reports.

PIAG Composition

This PIAG shall constitute four (4) subgroups, viz., PIAG Northern Luzon, PIAG Central/Southern Luzon, PIAG Visayas and PIAG Mindanao, with four members each:

One (1) – Supervising Project Engineer (SG 18)
One (1) – Senior Project Construction Engineer (SG 16)
One (1) – Senior Project Operations Engineer/Officer (SG 16)
One (1) – Senior Project Cost Engineer/Officer (SG 16)

These PIAG subgroups should hold office on a regular basis right at the central accessible point of their assigned geopolitical areas, to achieve effective performance. Specific responsibility of this PIAG is to assure attainment of the NIA commitments to the FSSR where the tasks of each PIAG subgroup are enumerated in this Framework.

Program Funding

Cost entailed in the creation and mobilization of the herein-specified PIAG (e.g., allowable remuneration and travel expenses) is chargeable against program funds. Since the members of the PIAG shall be on contract-of-service engagement, the aspects of field work and travel expenses needed special treatment in the engagement papers.

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