

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

NOAP

2017-2023 »»

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NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

FY 2017–2023

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| ACPC | Agriculture Credit Council of the Philippines |
| AEWs | Agriculture Extension Workers |
| AMAD | Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division |
| AMAS | Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance and Services |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| ATI | Agriculture Training Institute |
| BAFS | Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards |
| BAI | Bureau of Animal Industry |
| BAS | Bureau of Agriculture Statistics |
| BFAR | Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources |
| BPI | Bureau of Plant Industry |
| BSU | Benguet State University |
| BSWM | Bureau of Soils and Water Management |
| CAR | Cordillera Administrative Region |
| CHED | Commission on Higher Education |
| DA | Department of Agriculture |
| DAR | Department of Agrarian Reform |
| DepEd | Department of Education |
| DILG | Department of Interior and Local Government |
| DOH | Department of Health |
| DOST | Department of Science and Technology |
| DTI | Department of Trade and Industry |
| FiBL | Research Institute of Organic Agriculture |
| IAs | Implementing Agencies |
| IEC | Information, Education and Communication |
| IFOAM | International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement |
| LBP | Land Bank of the Philippines |
| LGUs | Local Government Unit |
| LOAMC | League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities |
| LTC | Local Technical Committee |
| NCIP | National Commission on Indigenous People |
| NEDA | National Economic and Development Authority |
| NICERT | Negros Island Certification |
| NOAAA | National Organic Agriculture Achievers Awards |

| | |
|---------|---|
| NOAB | National Organic Agriculture Board |
| NOAC | National Organic Agriculture Congress |
| NOAP | National Organic Agriculture Program |
| NPCO | National Program Coordinating Office |
| NGOs | Non-governmental Organizations |
| OA | Organic Agriculture |
| OAA | Organic Agriculture Act |
| OCB | Organic Certification Body |
| OCCP | Organic Certification Center of the Philippines |
| OTPs | Organic Trading Posts |
| PCAARRD | Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquaculture Resources Research and Development |
| Php B | Billion Pesos |
| PhP M | Million Pesos |
| PNS | Philippine National Standard |
| PSA | Philippine Statistics Authority |
| RA | Republic Act |
| RBMES | Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System |
| RDE | Research, Development and Extension |
| RFOs | Regional Field Offices |
| ROAC | Regional Organic Agriculture Congress |
| SCU | State College and University |
| TESDA | Technical Education and Skills Development Authority |

PREFACE

The National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) 2017-2023 is a collaborative document spearheaded by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) through the cooperation of various stakeholders of the organic industry, implementers of the Department of Agriculture (DA), and national government agencies.

A series of activities were conducted from June 2016 to November 2017 to successfully craft the NOAP 2017-2023. These are:

- Two (2) workshops attended by the NOAB, BAFS, NOAP National Program Coordinating Office (NPCO), and representatives from the concerned DA offices (Legal Service, Planning Service, and Policy Research Service) were held on June and July 2016 to develop the logical framework of the NOAP document.
- A National Technical Working Group (NTWG) was created to develop the NOAP Document for FY 2017-2023. The NTWG was composed of representatives from the NOAP NPCO, DA offices (Legal Service, Planning Service and Policy Research Service), NOAP implementing agencies (AMAS, ATI, BAI, BAFS, BAR, BPI, BSWM, BFAR, PHilMech), Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), National Center for Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD), MASIPAG Philippines, Central Bicol State University for Agriculture (CBSUA), Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP), and Negros Island Certification Services (NICERT).
- A series of NTWG meetings were conducted from July to November 2016 to discuss and fine-tune the logical framework and finalize the targets of the NOAP.
- Organic Agriculture Division (OAD) of the BAFS drafted the NOAP Strategic Plan of Action (SPA). The SPA served as a framework to identify the activities, sub-activities, timeline, lead agency, and output/s for each priority action of the identified strategic thrusts. The SPA of each NOAP component was formulated and finalized in consultation with the NTWG.
- A series of consultation workshops with the organic agriculture stakeholders such as those from peoples' organizations and/or non-government organizations were conducted in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao from January to June 2017 to review and discuss the draft NOAP 2017-2023 document .

- Consolidation and drafting of the NOAP 2017-2023 were done by the technical consultant from March to September 2017.
- The targets of the NOAP FY 2017-2023 were approved by the NOAB last September 13, 2017.

The NOAP FY 2017-2023, a comprehensive strategic plan, shall serve as a guide for the implementation of the organic agriculture programs, projects, and activities by the DA and its operating units. The member departments of the NOAB are also encouraged to refer to this document for the development and implementation of their organic agriculture initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NOAP 2017–2023 is the second strategic plan on organic agriculture of the Department of Agriculture (DA). This plan serves as the blueprint for the DA Implementing Agencies and Regional Field Offices (RFOs) in partnership with other stakeholders. It was crafted through a series of public consultations in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Its purpose is to continue the promotion and development of organic agriculture in the country so that it becomes a competitive and sustainable industry as envisioned in the landmark legislation, the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (Republic Act 10068). The Philippine organic agriculture experienced encouraging growth during the first NOAP 2012–2016 in terms of total agriculture area converted to organic farming, total volume of organic production, number of certified organic farms/establishments, market reach, and number of organic practitioners. There are constraints, however, for further adoption of organic agriculture practices by farmers which will need policy support. Furthermore, there are implementation challenges which need to be addressed through operational changes and continuous improvements to fully achieve the goals of the program. The successor plan will sustain the gains and adjust the DA strategy through continuous improvement of activities in the following strategic themes: Institution Development and Strengthening (Organizational Capacity) and Result-based Monitoring and Evaluation; Production and Post-Production; Research and Development; Extension, Education, and Advocacy; Market Development; and Regulatory. For better accountability, well-informed decision-making and planning, a sound database management and stronger results-based monitoring and evaluation (RBME) will be implemented. The plan will require an estimated total budget of five billion pesos (PhP 5 B).

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Legal Basis

The Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (Republic Act 10068) is a landmark legislation that promotes and develops organic agriculture in the country. It envisions a competitive and sustainable organic industry that will contribute to wider development goals of improved health (quality of life), social justice, poverty reduction, rural development, and environmental protection. It provides for policy and governance structure and covers the operational policies of production and post-production support, market support, certification, labelling, LGU support, research and development, extension, and capacity building. The NOAP 2012–2016 is a transition plan collectively crafted by organic stakeholders and approved by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) in 2011. The plan aimed to increase the share of organic farmland over total agricultural area of the country by 5%, increase the total volume of organic produce, increase the number of certified organic farms, and increase the number of organic practitioners/adopters.

Status of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines in 2013 and 2015

The Philippine organic agriculture registered encouraging growth during the period 2013-2015 based on the IFOAM-FiBL surveys in 2013 and 2015¹. In 2015, however, survey data shows that the Philippines ranked 8th among the top 10 countries worldwide with highest increase in organic land (see *Figure 1*). The increase was 124,558 hectares, i.e., from 110,084 hectares in 2014 to 234,642 hectares in 2015. In Asia, the Philippines ranked as the 4th country with the largest organic area. Moreover, among the countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Philippines ranked number one with the largest organic farmland. Of the 554 hectares of organic rice areas, 508 hectares are fully converted, while all areas devoted to fruits (9,909 hectares), cocoa beans (10 hectares), and vegetables (6 hectares) are fully converted as of 2015. Of the 2.4 million organic producers worldwide, the Philippines ranked 5th among countries with most organic practitioners (165,958).

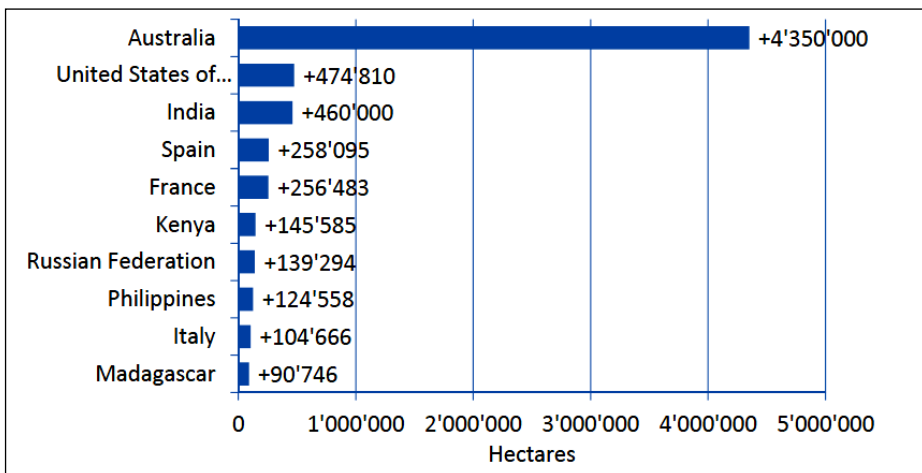


Figure 1. Top ten countries with the highest increase of organic land in 2015, FiBL 2017

¹ Willer, H. and Leonard, J. [Eds.] 2017. The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2017. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Prick and IFOAM – Organic International, Bonn. Version 1.3 of February 20, 2017. <http://www.ifoam.org/>

NOAP 2012–2016

The major components of the NOAP 2012–2016 were implemented by the various DA Implementing Agencies (IAs) and Regional Field Offices (RFOs). These components are: (1) Institution Development and Strengthening involving localization of Organic Agriculture Act; (2) Research and Development for continuing research and upgrading of relevant technologies; (3) Production and Technology Support for cultivation and adoption of production and processing methods; (4) Extension and Capability building of key stakeholders (LGUs, POs, NGOs, including small farmers and groups); (5) Promotion, Advocacy, and Education of consumers and producers; (6) Market Development and Commercialization of organic farming practices; and (7) Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation of organic agriculture programs, plans and projects.

The government allocated a total budget of PhP 5.72 billion to the program which represented at most 2% of its total agriculture budget as mandated by law. Since 2015, funds were downloaded to implementing units to ensure timely delivery of services and effective program implementation.

Milestones of NOAP 2012–2016

As of December 2016, a total of 349,041 hectares² agricultural land was converted to organic farmland, representing 4.86 % of the country's total agricultural land (Table 1). The share of organic area over a particular region's total agriculture area varied and reached over 100% of its 5% target (Regions 13, CAR, 3, 12, and 11). The total volume of organic production was 525,863 metric tons, reaching 106 market destinations (86 domestic and 20 export markets) with over 116, 558 farmer beneficiaries. There are also 63 certified farms and establishments to date, 29 of which were certified in 2016, and 88 more applicants yet for certification assistance the following year.

² NOAP NPCO.2017.NOAP 2012-2016 Accomplishments per Key Results Area (KRA). <https://www.organic.da.gov.ph/images/Documents/KRA.pdf>

Table 1. Organic agriculture area in the Philippines per region, NOAP 2017.

| Region | Total Agricultural Area ³ (ha) | Organic Agriculture Area (ha) 2011-2016 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Entire Philippines | 7,165,815.61 | 349,041.28 |
| Cordillera Administrative Region | 137,638.42 | 26,128.71 |
| Region 1—Ilocos Region | 218,652.94 | 2,582.48 |
| Region II—Cagayan Valley | 478,720.97 | 16,789.99 |
| Region III—Central Luzon | 440,901.96 | 39,466.81 |
| Region IV-A—CLABARZON | 497,500.86 | 9,485.59 |
| Region IV-B—MIMAROPA | 445,587.95 | 10,627.99 |
| Region V—Bicol Region | 765,824.09 | 23,209.00 |
| Region VI—Western Visayas | 460,456.04 | 655.44 |
| Region VII—Central Visayas | 292,571.40 | 2,615.00 |
| Region VIII—Eastern Visayas | 453,606.87 | 5,435.35 |
| Region IX—Zamboanga Peninsula | 448,181.29 | 21,500.00 |
| Region X—Northern Mindanao | 532,889.37 | 3,253.77 |
| Region XI—Davao Region | 571,236.45 | 34,262.18 |
| Region XII—SOCCSKSARGEN | 618,117.00 | 44,168.05 |
| Region XIII—Caraga | 461,405.19 | 105,498.92 |
| Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao | 346,524.82 | 3,362.00 |

³ Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). 2012. Census of Agriculture and Fisheries 2012

Highlights of Accomplishments, by Component

Component 1: Institution Development and Strengthening

At the national level:

1. A functioning National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) is in place, and ably supported by BAFS as its Secretariat.
2. A National Program Coordinating Office (NPCO) initially managed by the BAFS is now assigned under the Field Operation Service (FOS) of the DA-Central Office.
3. Eighty-nine (89) resolutions/guidelines presented to NOAB and approved, 23 of which are policy guidelines shown in (*Figure 2*).
4. Mid-year and year-end performance assessments were conducted by the National Program Coordinating Office (NPCO) to identify issues and concerns, identify and prioritize major program implementation challenges, share lessons learned, and recommend operational changes to improve implementation.
5. The program has also established the Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation System (RBMES) for the improvement of the program's database which will be implemented in 2017.

At the regional level:

1. Focal persons were identified and support staff were hired to implement the program at the regional level.
2. All regions submitted regional organic road maps.

At the local level:

1. The League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities (LOAMC) has a total membership of 100 as of December 2016, composed of 59 incumbent Mayors, 34 non-incumbent Mayors, and 7 Advisers/Technical/Legal. There are 12 Founding Members from Luzon (4), Visayas (3) and Mindanao (5). There are more members from Mindanao (30) compared with Luzon (26) and the Visayas (18).

2. A total of 1,255 Local Technical Committees (LTCs) were created in the entire country, broken down as follows: 69 Provincial, 100 Cities, and 1,086 Municipal LTCs.
3. Local ordinances on organic agriculture were passed by 21 provinces, 27 cities, and 294 municipalities.
4. Local focal persons identified and support staff mobilized to help implement the program.

- Certification Subsidy and its Fee Structure
- Evaluation of Project Proposals
- Selection of Demo and Training Farms
- ESP Accreditation
- Accreditation of NGO/PO
- Establishment of Organic Trading Posts

2012



2011

- Selection of NOAB non-government member 2011-2014
- Accreditation of OCB
- Registration of organic food and input producers



2013

- DA-DILG JMC re NOAP Implementation
- Selection of Demo and Training Farms (revised)
- Amendment to RA 10068 IRR Section 27 – Extending the transition period for 3rd Party certification
- Call for proposals
- OA Local Government Units Awards FY 2013

Figure 2. Policy guidelines approved by NOAB for FY 2012–2016

- National Organic Agriculture Achievers Awards (NOAAA) FY 2014
- November as “Organic Agriculture Month”

2014

- Transition period for the use of Organic Mark
- NOAAA 2016

2016

2015

- Certification subsidy incentive (revised)
- Official Accreditation of OCB (revised)
- Registration of organic fertilizer producers (revised)
- Registration of Organic Primary and Post-harvest Organic Food and Non-food Products
- Registration of Pre-packaged and Processed Products
- Validation of Organic Primary and Post-Harvest Organic Food, Non-food and Input Producers
- NOAAA 2015

Component 2: Research and Development

BAR takes the lead and supports the Organic Agriculture Research and Development Component of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP 2012–2016) through the following programs and activities: a) organization and establishment of research and development centers; b) dissemination and adoption of new technologies by farmers; c) user-friendly database and information system on OA in place and accessible to all OA stakeholders; d) information, education, and public awareness program on research completed and continuing activities supported; e) completion and updating of national survey of organic production; f) compilation of indigenous knowledge and continuous dissemination thereafter; g) strengthen and support private sector participation in research activities; and h) tapping of existing farms of organic practitioners as learning and research centers for participatory activities

The following were accomplished during the plan period (See *Figure 3*):

- 22 Research and Development Centers for OA established;
- 85 Research projects funded which included applied research on organic seed production, pest and disease management, crop production, and soil management;
- 4 Research facilities established/funded;
- 9 Research facilities maintained;
- 12 Research projects upgraded;
- 176 New technologies disseminated;
- 40 Learning Sites established in CAR (5), Region IVB (13), Region 6 (12), Region 10 (3), Region 11 (4), Region 13 (3), showcasing Integrated Farms, Nursery, Vermiculture, Composting, Organic Production of Rice, Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs, Organic livestock and poultry, tilapia, etc.;
- User-friendly database and information system on organic agriculture (OA) in place and accessible to OA stakeholders;
- Information, Education, and Public Awareness Program on research completed and continuing activities supported—An example is a policy brief on “Gearing Up Sustainable Agriculture with Organic Farming for the Global Market” based on the research conducted by Rola, Pantoja, Chupungco, Nguyen, and Reyes (2016) on “Policy support to organic agriculture in the Philippines”;
- Indigenous knowledge compiled in 2013 and disseminated continuously thereafter;
- Private sector participation in research activities strengthened and supported; and
- Organic Agriculture RDE Agenda Plan (OA RDEAP) for FY 2017–2020 formulated.

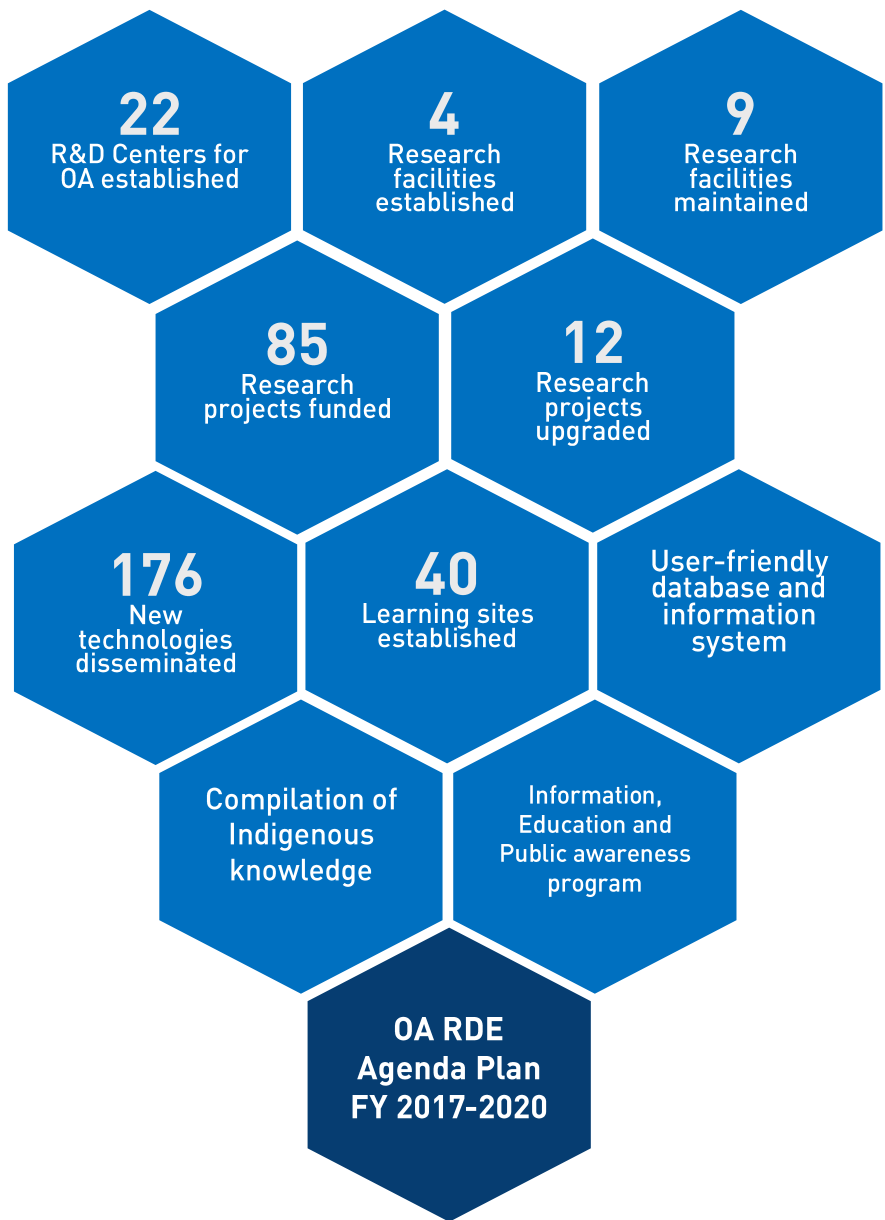


Figure 3. OA R&D accomplishments and activities, 2012-2016

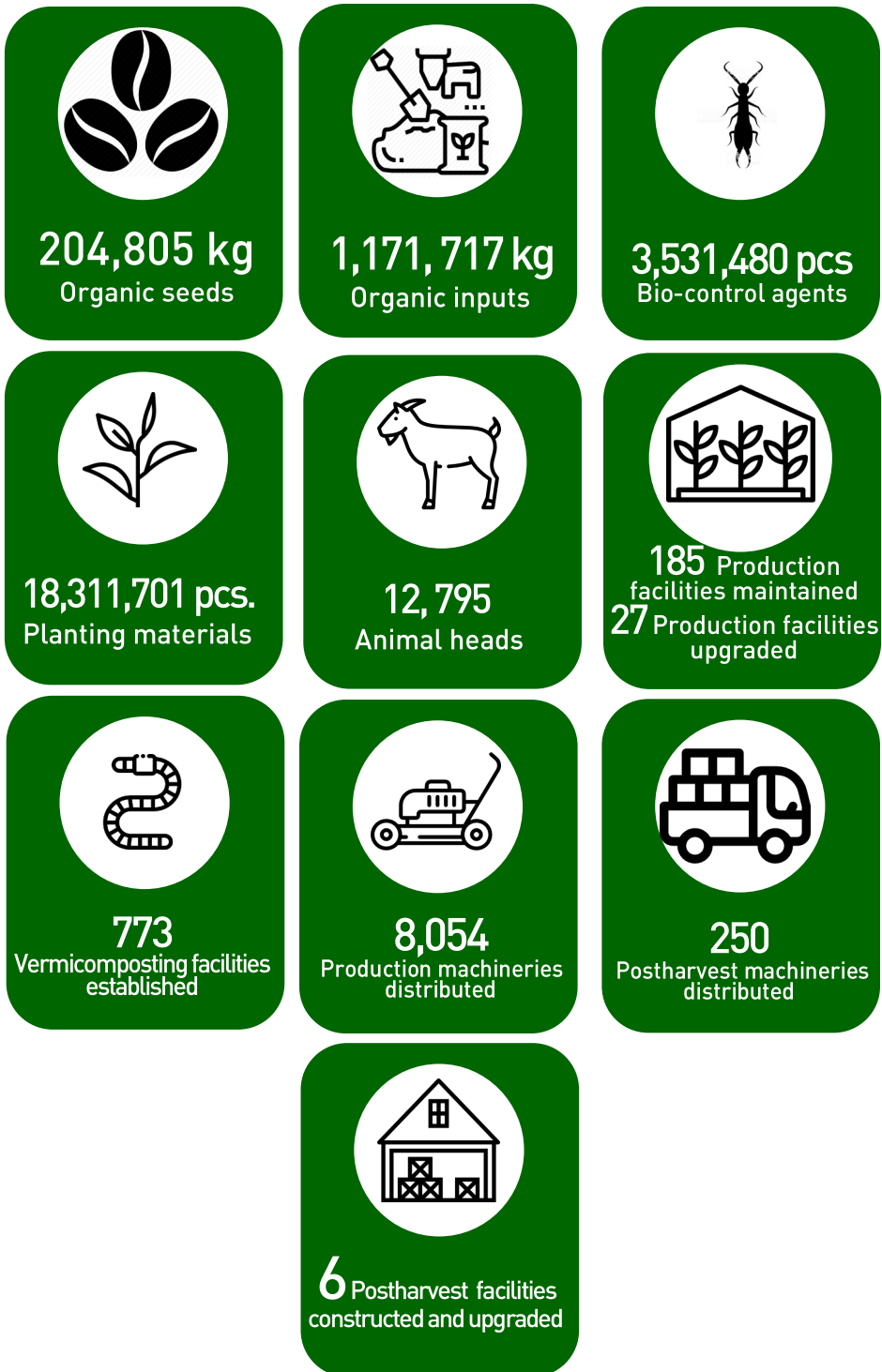


Figure 4. Production and technology support interventions, 2012–2016

Component 3: Production and Technology Support

The implementing agencies of the DA such as BPI, BAI, BSWM, and the RFOs led the distribution and provision of the following organic farm inputs, machineries, and production and post-harvest facilities⁴ (See *Figure 4*):

- 204,805 kg. organic seeds
- 1,171,717 kg. organic fertilizers and other inputs
- 3,531,480 pcs. bio-control agents
- 18,311,701 pcs. planting materials
- 12,795 animal heads
- 185 production facilities maintained
- 27 production facilities upgraded
- 773 vermicomposting facilities established
- 8,054 farm production machineries distributed
- 250 postharvest machineries distributed
- 6 postharvest facilities constructed and upgraded

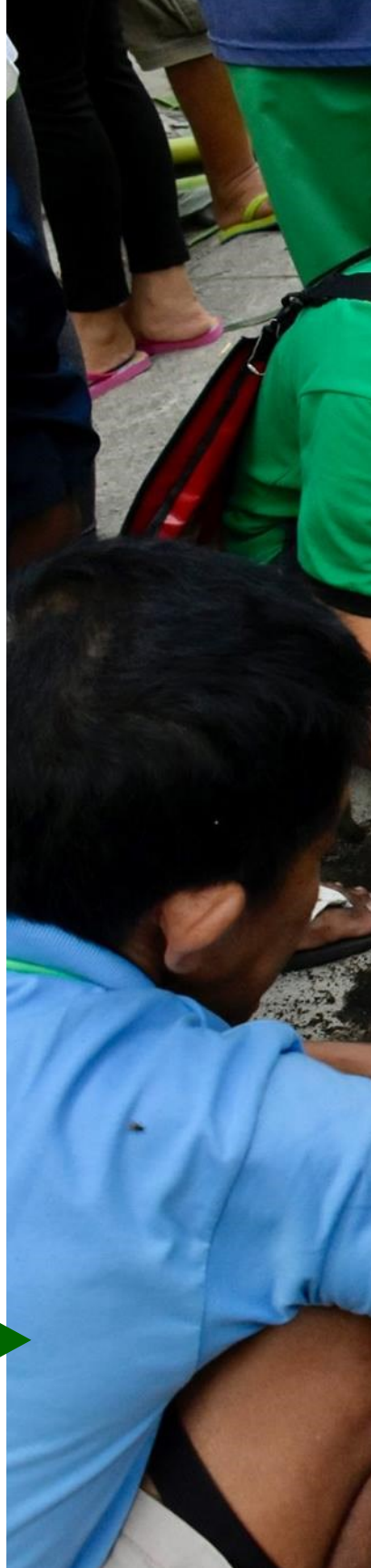
⁴NOAP NPCO. 2017. NOAP Accomplishments. <http://www.organic.da.ph.gov/documents/accomplishments/pdf> Accessed: 26 June 2017.

Component 4: Extension and Capacity Building of Key Stakeholders

The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the RFOs conducted 2,299 training and training-related-events⁵. They provided and updated useful information and knowledge on OA-related technologies. To date, they disseminated 1,246,662 IEC materials to various stakeholders, including 19 photo stories/press releases, and 1,377 radio/TV advertisements. A total of 1,088 Techno demo farms were established and maintained. In partnership with TESDA, the National Certification II on Organic Agriculture was offered with core competencies on raising organic chicken, organic vegetables, organic fertilizers, and organic concoctions and extracts.

DA Regional Organic Focal Persons and NOAP NPCO personnel during the NC II on OA Production at ATI Regional Center II in San Mateo, Isabela. © Kristine Montes, 2017

⁵NOAP NPCO. 2017. NOAP Accomplishments. <https://www.organic.da.ph.gov/documents/accomplishments/pdf> Accessed: 26 June 2017.





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Component 5: Promotion, Education & Advocacy and Education of Consumers and Producers

The promotional activities of the NOAP focused on increasing the public's awareness or consciousness on organic agriculture. The NOAP operating units conducted and participated in various activities to ensure effective information dissemination to all sectors, increased consumer awareness, and uniform understanding among the farmers, LGUs and other lead agencies on organic agriculture.

The following were the activities conducted to achieve the objectives of this component:

1. Quad media information campaign on OA law and IRR
2. Consumer awareness and education
3. Integration of organic agriculture in school curricula— Dep Ed high school, undergraduate program of Benguet State University (BSU), Open University
4. Conduct of annual OA national and regional OA congresses—8 NOACs, Regional OA Congresses
5. Seminars and trade shows
6. Celebration of OA Month since November 2016 showcasing NOAP accomplishments
7. Regional photo contests showing OA implementation in the country
8. Search for National Organic Agriculture Achievers' Award (NOAAA) recognizing the outstanding LGUs and organic practitioners in the country

Component 6: Market Development

AMAS takes the lead in Market development and commercialization of organic farming practices. To date, it has established 89 Organic Trading Posts (OTPs), and conducted 337 market promotional events. The distribution of established OTPs per region is shown in Figure 5.



©Photographs by NOAP NPCO, 2018

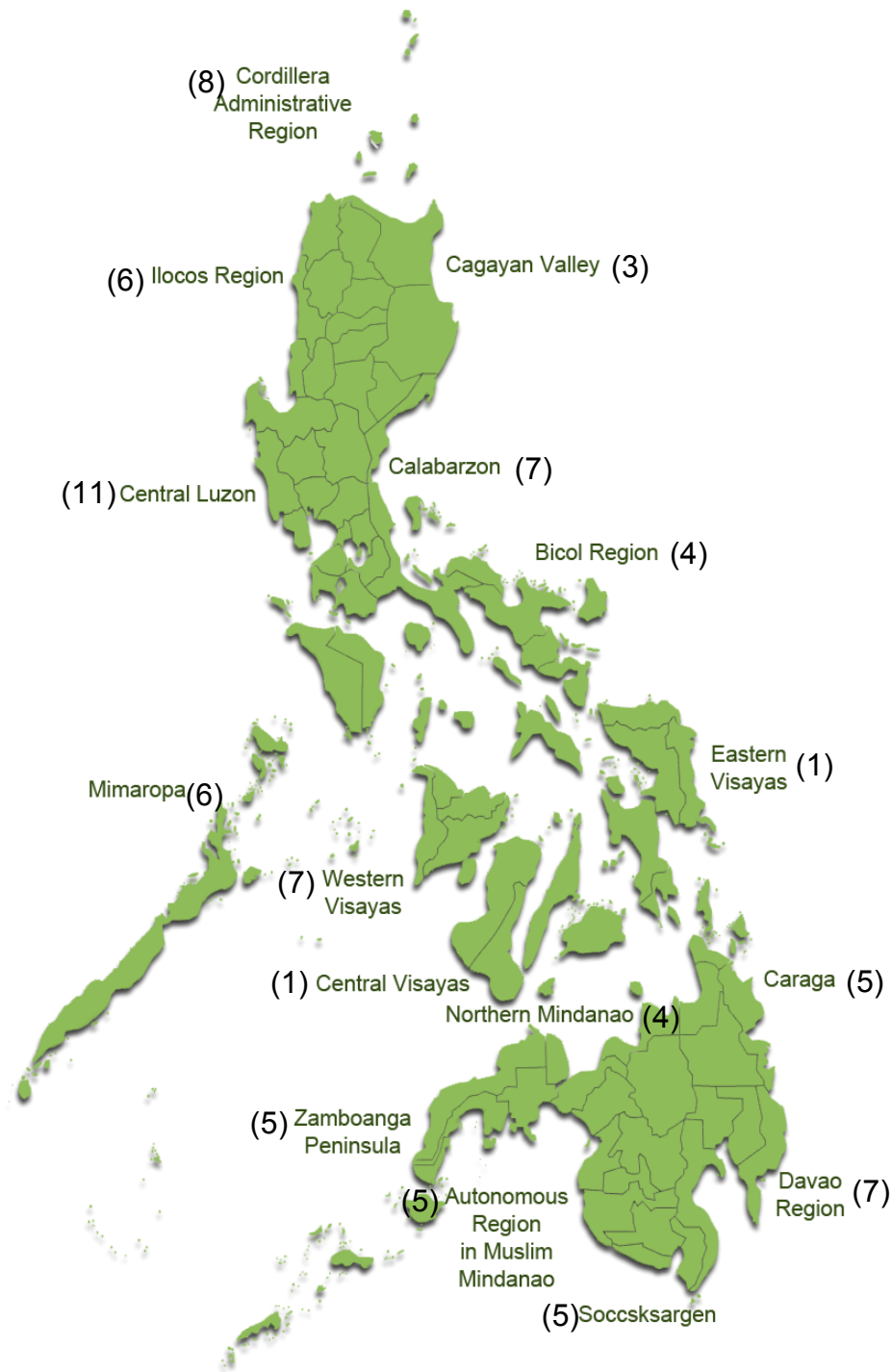


Figure 5. Number of established OTPs per region, NOAP 2012-2016

Challenges

In the report of FiBL and IFOAM in 2017, Willer and Lernoud (2017) cited the very significant and very encouraging growth of Philippines organic agriculture in 2015. Nevertheless, for broader and further adoption of the technology by farmers, a number of policy support will be needed to address the constraints as well as the major challenges requiring operational adjustments identified during the NOAP 2012–2016 program implementation (Rola et al, 2016).

Constraints to Further Adoption by Farmers

These constraints are: (a) Limited support to production (e.g., lack or low access to organic inputs such as seeds, planting materials, biological control agents, and organic soil amendments); (b) Marketing problems (e.g., lack of market information system, lack of product disaggregation, and inappropriate packaging); (c) Organization of organic producers; (d) Low competencies in organic production of both program implementers (e.g., LGUs and operating units) and producers; (e) No provision on irrigation facilities such as communal, drip irrigation and alternative irrigation prime movers; and (f) Expensive and very tedious certification process (Rola et al, 2016). Policy support needed to address these constraints will be considered in the NOAP 2017–2023 plan implementation as discussed in the later section of this document.

Challenges Encountered during 2012–2016 Program Implementation

IAs and RFOs identified the following major program implementation challenges and listed them in order of priority⁶:

- Limited mobility, physical office and OA personnel – No designated permanent physical office and permanent OA staff to facilitate the continuation of program. Also, there is no permanent representative or focal person from other regulatory agencies (SRA, PCA, NFA).
- Slow pace in establishment of OA database—There is difficulty in collection of data and data submitted require further validation. Compared to the NOAP, other DA banner programs have PSA data.
- Lack of awareness of the stakeholders on OA regulations e.g. registration procedures, certification process;
- Unsustainability of program interventions due to political dynamics at LGU level. Moreover, there are cities and municipalities that do not prioritize OA; hence, LTCs are not fully functional.
- Lack of incentives to AEWs to motivate them to work on the OA program implementation.
- Conflicting schedule of inspection of pre-assessment team for certification assistance and availability of the other members of the team including the OCBs.
- Different interpretation of guidelines PNS for organic agriculture.
- Some OTPs are not operational due to administrative concerns and lack of management skills on the part of OTP operators. Some of these established OTPs are also not strategically located.

⁶ NOAP–NCPO. 2016. NOAP FY 2016 Year-end Performance Assessment. (Unpublished report)

Lessons Learned During NOAP Program Implementation

IAs and RFOs identified lessons learned during the NOAP 2012-2016 program implementation and recommended operational improvements which are considered in the successor plan NOAP 2017-2023, namely:

- Strong coordination, partnership, and linkages – It is important to establish strong coordination, partnership, and linkages not only with other national agencies, LGUs, NGOs, SUCs and other stakeholders, but more importantly within the DA National and Regional offices (e.g., Budget, Planning, PMED, and Accounting Division) to fast track implementation;
- Target early procurement of interventions – For early distribution, schedule of procurement activities should always be earlier than the target schedule of implementation;
- Early preparation – Early preparation of Program of Work and detailed Engineering Design to fast track approval of the proposal and procurement process;
- Strictly follow timelines – This is especially so for the submission of required documents for procurement (enabling documents, master list of recipients and PPMP); and
- Follow-ups – It is important to have frequent follow-ups of the procurement process.
- Provision of incentives to OA technicians to facilitate program implementation;
- Harmonized baseline data collection in all regions and strengthened partnership and coordination with PSA and LGUs;
- Provision of additional funds for certification assistance to include pre-assessment processes, i.e., registration and efficacy testing of OA inputs.
- The need for additional OCBs to cope with the growing number of applicants for certification;

- Extension of validity of third party certification from one (1) year to three (3) years;
- Capacity enhancement and training of OA focal persons on NC III, internal control system (ICS) manual preparation and geo-tagging/basic GIS, and knowledge of the global OA industry;
- Focus and extend OA Program to Indigenous Peoples Community and underprivileged people in the community;
- OA program to have permanent coordinators/staff to facilitate program implementation; and
- Budget allocation by LGUs to implement NOAP.



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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

**Combines tradition, innovation,
and science to benefit shared
environment and promote fair
relationships and a good quality
of life for all**

PNS/BAFS 07:2016

NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM 2017-2023

Vision

Organic agriculture will be a competitive and sustainable industry.

Mission

To promote and develop organic agriculture in the country.

Outcomes

Organic agriculture shall contribute to wider development goals of economic empowerment and poverty reduction, improved health, quality of life and social justice, and environmental protection and resiliency.

Objectives

The specific objectives of NOAP 2017–2023 are:

1. To increase the total share of total agricultural area devoted to organic agriculture and aquaculture;
2. To provide third-party certification assistance to organic operators annually (renewal and new applicants);
3. To increase the total number of organic practitioners;
4. To increase the volume of total organic production; and
5. To increase distribution channels for organic produce and product.

The specific targets for each objective are presented in Figure 6.

Strategic Thrusts, Strategic Objectives, and Priority Actions

The six (6) Strategic Themes of the NOAP FY 2017-2023 are:

1. Institutional Development and Strengthening, and Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation;
2. Research and Development;
3. Extension and capacity building, promotion, advocacy and education;
4. Production and post-production support services;
5. Market development; and
6. Regulatory services

This Section presents the strategic thrusts, strategic objectives and priority actions identified for each strategic theme of the Program.

NOAP Targets by 2023

Total share of total agricultural area devoted to organic agriculture and aquaculture (in hectares)



501,887.09

from 349,041 ha of OA areas

Third-party certification assistance to

48
certified
operators

(average of 3 certified operators per region)

**Baseline data as of 2016*



340
certified

(renewal and new applicants)

Total number of organic agriculture



29,140

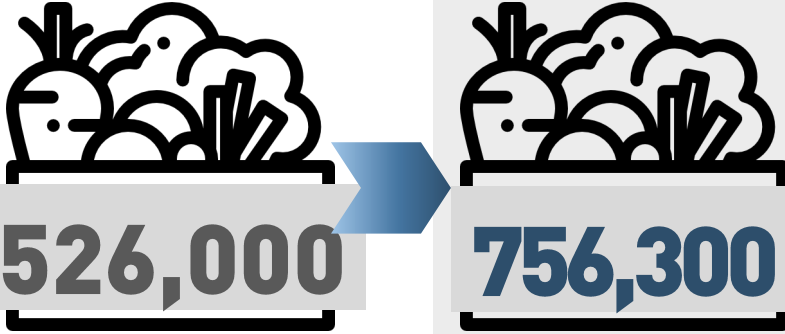
**Baseline data as of 2016*



233,100

Figure 6. Identified targets of the Program to be attained by 2023.

Volume of total organic production



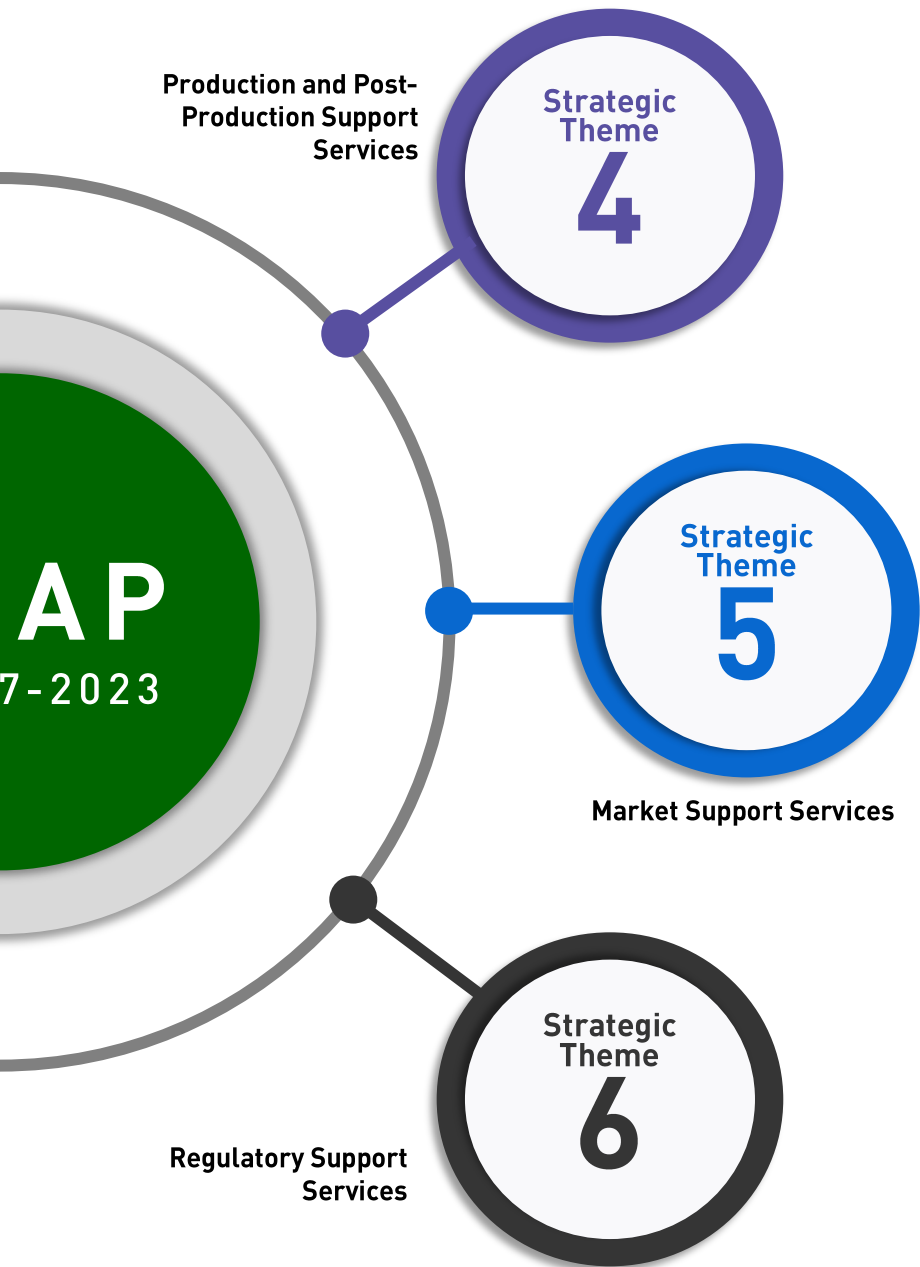
**Baseline data as of 2016*

Number of distribution channels for



Strategic Themes of the NOAP FY 2017–2023





STRATEGIC THEME 1

Institutional Development and Strengthening, and Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation

Strategic Thrust: Effective implementation of the NOAP through strengthening of institutional mechanisms and arrangements

Strategic Objective:

To ensure effective implementation of the NOAP through strengthening the organizational structure from the national to the local level, harmonization and localization of plans, and enhancement of monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Priority actions are:

1. Formulate and review appropriate/relevant policies in support of the NOAP (by the NOAB and NOAB Secretariat);
2. Strengthen the organizational structure, and operation and management of the NOAP at the national and regional levels (by the DA NOAP-NPCO, NOAP Operating units);
3. Localize the NOAP (by the NOAP-NPCO, DA RFOs, DILG, LGU);
4. Enhance the NOAP monitoring and evaluation mechanism (by DA NOAP-NPCO, OA member agencies, LGU, BAS/PSA, NOAP Operating Units).

Priority Action 1. Formulate and review appropriate policies in support to the implementation of the NOAP

| Activity 1: Strengthening the oversight function of the NOAB | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct NOAB regular meetings for the updating of the policy issuances to address the gaps based on the review and assessments | 2017-2023 | NOAB NOAB Secretariat | No. of resolutions approved and endorsed to the DA Secretary and other concerned agencies |
| 1.2 Conduct NOAB technical committee meeting and public fora/ consultation with stakeholders to gather inputs for the formulation, review, and updating of policy documents on organic agriculture | | | No. of policy document/ implementing guidelines formulated/ approved and/or reviewed/updated |
| 1.3 Conduct capability building activities for the NOAB | | | No. of capability building activities conducted |

Priority Action 2. Strengthen the organizational structure, and operation and management of the NOAP at the national and regional level

| Activity 1. Establish and strengthen national and regional organic agriculture coordinating offices | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Draft the rationalization plan regarding the request for plantilla positions | 2017-2020 | DA NOAP-NPCO NOAP Operating Units | Organic agriculture coordinating offices with plantilla positions in the national and regional field offices of the DA including the BFAR and its RFO established |
| 1.2 Submit plantilla positions for NOAP National and Regional Program Coordinating Office by the DA and BFAR | | | |
| 1.3 Designate qualified focal persons and personnel solely for organic agriculture through issuance of Special Order | | | Existing national and regional organic agriculture coordinating units with focal persons and personnel solely working for the organic agriculture strengthened |
| 1.4 Prepare annual plans to support the implementation of the NOAP | | | No. of plan and budget forms submitted |

Priority Action 2. Strengthen the organizational structure, and operation and management of the NOAP at the national and regional level (continued...)

| Activity 2. Enhance the technical competence of OA personnel on program management, planning and budgeting | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| Conduct capability building for OA implementers to enhance technical competence and knowledge on OA Program management, planning and budgeting process | 2017-2023 | NOAP-NPCO NOAP Operating Units | No. of capability building activities conducted |

Priority Action 3. Localize the NOAP

| Activity 1. Update and harmonize national, regional and local (PLGU & MLGU) road map | | | |
|--|------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Develop guidelines for the updating and harmonization of roadmap | 2017-2020 | NOAP NPCO DA RFO DILG LGU | Guidelines for the updating and harmonization approved |
| 1.2 Conduct national and regional consultations and workshops with the LGU for the updating and harmonization of the existing roadmaps | | | Updated and Harmonized National, regional and local (PLGU & MLGU) road maps |
| 1.3 Regularly conduct monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the roadmaps | 2020, 2023 | | No. of M&E reports |
| Activity 2. Establish and strengthen local technical committees (LTC) | | | |
| 2.1 Issue a DA-DILG joint guidelines enjoining LGU to adopt and implement of OA program in their locality | 2017-2023 | DILG, LGU, LOAM, LOAMC | No. of local technical committees (LTC) established |
| | | | No. of local technical committee (LTC) fully functional |
| 2.2 Conduct capability building activities on the implementation of the organic agriculture program | | | No. of capability building activities conducted |

Priority Action 1.3 Localize the NOAP (continued...)

| Activity 3. Enhance technical competence of OA personnel on program management, planning and budgeting | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| Conduct capability building for OA implementers to enhance technical competence and knowledge on OA Program management, planning and budgeting process | 2017-2023 | LGU in coordination with the DA RFO | No. of capability building activities conducted |

Priority Action 4. Enhance NOAP monitoring and evaluation mechanism

| Activity 1. Conduct baseline survey to support the M&E | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct national survey | 2017-2018 | NOAP-NPCO PSA NOAP Operating Units | Baseline data established |
| 1.2 Conduct regular inter-agency meetings/ workshops to harmonize data of PSA and the region | | | |
| 1.3 Develop checklist for the survey/ data gathering methodology | | | |
| 1.4 Conduct orientation/ reorientation on the PNS OA for the PSA personnel | | | |
| Activity 2. Regularly monitor and evaluate of program implementation | | | |
| 2.1 Conduct regular assessment (e.g. midyear and year-end assessments) | 2017-2023 | NOAP NPCO NOAP Operating Units | No. of accomplishment reports submitted |
| 2.2 Conduct monitoring and evaluation | 2017-2023 | NOAP NPCO NOAP Operating Units | No. of M&E report |

Priority Action 4. Enhance NOAP monitoring and evaluation mechanism (continued...)

| Activity 3. Develop and regularly update management information system (MIS) for organic agriculture | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 3.1 Develop, maintain and update MIS regularly | 2017-2023 | NOAP NPCO | MIS for organic agriculture developed and regularly updated |
| 3.2 Develop/review monitoring mechanism | | | Monitoring mechanism established |
| Activity 4. Facilitate the conduct of impact evaluation | | | |
| Conduct impact evaluation through third-party evaluators/ consultancy firms by the mid-term and end of program implementation | 2020, 2023 | NOAP NPCO | Mid-term and terminal reports submitted |

STRATEGIC THEME 2

Research and Development

Strategic Thrust: Strengthening OA research and development activities through active collaboration with government agencies, private sector, and indigenous groups for the continuous upgrading and innovation of relevant and appropriate technologies.

Strategic Objective:

To continue and intensify collaborative and participative research and development including the upgrading of relevant and appropriate technologies, information and knowledge systems to ensure the expansion of the organic sector and address health and environmental issues.

Priority actions are:

1. Establish Centers of Excellence for OA R & D (by DA-BAR/BFAR, NOAB, RFOs, SUCs, NOAP-NPCO);
2. Provide continued support to basic and applied research on OA and indigenous knowledge systems (by DA-BAR/BFAR/RFOs, NCIP, DENR, SUCs);
3. Strengthen participation of private sector in research activities (by DA-BAR/BFAR/RFOs/ATI, SUCs, Private Sector, LGUs).

Priority Action 1. Establish Centers of Excellence for OAA R&D

| Activity 1. Establish and operationalize of OAA research & development centers | | | |
|--|-----------|--|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct workshops and/or meetings to develop guidelines for the operationalization of OAA R&D Centers | 2017-2018 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR RFOs SUCs NOAP-NPCO NOAB | Guidelines for the operationalization of OAA R&D Centers |
| 1.2 Conduct meetings to review and assess the implementation of guidelines for the operationalization of OAA R&D Centers | 2018-2023 | | Review and assessment meeting conducted |
| 1.3 Review and process project proposals from SUCs for the establishment of OAA R&D Centers | 2018-2023 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR NOAB RFOs | Project proposals reviewed and processed |
| 1.4 Prepare plan and budget proposal for the establishment and operationalization of OAA R&D centers as proposed by the SUCs | | | Plan and budget proposals prepared |
| 1.5. Establish and/or operationalize of OAA R&D Centers | 2017-2023 | RFOs DA-BFAR SUCs NOAP-NPCO | OAA R&D centers established and fully operational ⁷ |
| 1.6 Conduct monitoring and evaluation activities of established OAA R&D Centers | 2017-2023 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR DA-RFO, NOAP-NPCO SUCs | M&E Reports |

⁷ Presence of building, personnel, organizational structure, fund allocation, programs, and network (including clientele)

Priority Action 2. Provide continued support to basic and applied research on OA and indigenous knowledge systems

Activity 1. Intensify conduct and monitoring of Basic and Applied Research on OAA especially for priority commodities

| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
|---|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 1.1 Revalidate identified priority commodities for R&D | 2017-2023 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR | List of priority commodities |
| 1.2 Conduct information campaign to call for project proposals for R&D studies on priority commodities | | | Information campaign conducted |
| 1.3 Process submitted project proposals for R&D studies on organic agriculture | | | Project proposals received and processed |
| 1.4 Provide funding for approved proposals for the conduct of basic and applied R&D studies on organic agricultures | | | Basic and applied R&D studies on organic agriculture ⁸ funded and completed |
| 1.5 Conduct monitoring and evaluation of funded R&D studies on organic agriculture | | | M&E reports |

⁸ Possible research areas: processing and product development, agroforestry (DENR, DA, SUCs), environmental impact and sustainability (DENR, DA, BSWM, SUCs), plant breeding (DA, BPI, SUCs), systems development (BSWM, BAI, BPI, SUCs), socio-economics and policy (DA, AMAS, DTI, SUCs), soil quality (BSWM), and food quality and health (DOH, NIMIS, SUCs) (be included in the JAO with NOAB member departments).

Priority Action 2. Provide continued support to basic and applied research on OA and indigenous knowledge systems

| Activity 2. Strengthen collaboration with National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) for the Creation of a TWG for the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Documentation and Validation | | | |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 2.1 Create Technical Working Group (TWG) for the documentation and validation of relevant IKS | 2017-2023 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR NCIP DENR DA-RFOs SUCs | IKS profiles of documented and compiled |
| 2.2 Conduct TWG Meetings for the preparation and implementation of the IKS documentation and validation | | | |
| 2.3 Conduct collaborative activities with NCIP for the IKS documentation | | | |
| 2.4 Conduct IKS documentation and validation | | | |
| 2.5 Publish IKS | | | Published IKS |

Priority Action 3. Strengthen the participation of Private Sector in research activities

| Activity 3.1 Strengthen and support private sector (including farmers, farmer-scientists and researchers) participation in research activities | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct workshop/s and/or meeting/s to develop guidelines on the participation of private sectors in BAR-funded research activities | 2017-2018 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR DA-ATI | Guidelines on the participation of private sectors in BAR-funded research activities |
| 1.2 Conduct meetings to review and assess the implementation of guidelines on the participation of private sectors in BAR-funded research activities | 2018-2023 | | |
| 1.3 Conduct information campaign [e.g. DA-BAR process and procedures for funding research and development projects, call for project proposals, and capability building activities for collaborative researches with private sector] | 2017-2023 | | Information campaign conducted |
| 1.4 Process submitted project proposals for collaborative research with private sector | | | Project proposals processed |

Priority Action 3. Strengthen the participation of private sector in research activities (continued...)

| Activity 1. Strengthen and support Private Sector (including farmers, farmer-scientists and researchers) Participation in Research Activities (continued...) | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.5 Provide funding for approved proposals for collaborative research with private sector | 2017-2023 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR DA-ATI | Project proposals for collaborative research funded and completed |
| 1.6 Conduct collaborative researches with private sector | | SUCs Private Sector | Collaborative researches conducted |
| Activity 2. Integrate research in existing OAA Learning sites | | | |
| 2.1 Conduct workshop/s and/or meeting/s develop guidelines for the identification of learning sites for OAA | 2017-2018 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR DA-ATI DA-RFO | Guidelines for the identification of learning sites for organic agriculture |
| 2.2 Conduct meetings to review and assess the implementation of guidelines for the identification of OAA learning sites | 2018-2023 | | Guidelines for the identification of learning sites for organic agriculture |
| 2.3 Conduct action/on-farm OAA research partnership in existing OAA learning sites | 2018-2023 | DA-BAR DA-BFAR DA-ATI DA-RFO SUCs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAA learning sites used for research • Research conducted in learning centers • Farmer-researchers supported |





OA-funded project on Technology Demonstration on the Production and Commercialization of Organically Grown Vuhus Cattle in Sabtang, Batanes

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STRATEGIC THEME 3

Extension and Capacity building, Promotion, Advocacy and Education

Strategic Thrust: Extension of relevant and appropriate research and development (R&D) results, innovation and technologies to stakeholders through continuous provision of capability building activities, and intensified promotional and information dissemination activities.

Strategic Objective:

To provide applicable technologies and strategies for creating effective extension services to relevant organic agriculture stakeholders.

Priority Actions are:

1. Facilitate effective transfer and dissemination of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies to stakeholders (by DA-ATI/RFOs, NOAP-NPCO, DOST, TESDA, LGUs);
2. Enhance technical capabilities of relevant organic agriculture stakeholders (by DA-ATI/RFOs/BAFS/BAR, NOAP-NPCO, SCUs, DepEd, TESDA, DOH, DTI);
3. Intensify nationwide promotional campaign on organic agriculture (by DA-ATI/BAFS/RFOs, NOAP-NPCO, NGOs, SUCs);
4. Enhance access on various organic agriculture principle through formal and non-formal education (by DA, DepEd, CHED, DOST, TESDA).

Priority Action 1. Facilitate effective transfer and dissemination of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies to stakeholders

| Activity 1. Develop an effective mechanism for transfer and dissemination of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies to stakeholders harmonized with the existing extension agenda | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| Establish TWG and conduct meetings for the development of framework for technology transfer | 2017-2018 | DA-ATI DA-RFO NOAP-NPCO | Technology transfer framework developed |
| Activity 2. Package and disseminate relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) of various research institutions | | | |
| 2.1 Assist in the application to Patent/Intellectual Property Rights | 2017-2023 | DA-ATI DA-RFO NOAP-NPCO DOST | No. of adopters of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture |
| 2.2 Package relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies and IKS | | | No. of adopters of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture |
| 2.3 Publish compiled relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies | | | No. of adopters of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture |
| 2.4 Conduct dissemination activities leading toward farmers adoption of packaged relevant and appropriate organic agriculture | | | No. of adopters of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture |
| 2.5 Monitor the adoption and usage of packaged relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies | | | M&E reports |

Priority Action 1. Facilitate effective transfer and dissemination of relevant and appropriate organic agriculture technologies to stakeholders (continued...)

| Activity 3. Increase the number of accredited Organic Agriculture Extension Service Providers (OA ESP) | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| Conduct of information campaigns | 2017-2023 | DA-ATI TESDA LGU DA-RFO | No. of Organic Agriculture Extension Service Providers (OA ESP) accredited |

Priority Action 2. Enhance technical capabilities of relevant organic agriculture stakeholders

Activity 1. Conduct capability building activities of relevant organic agriculture stakeholders

| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
|---|-----------|---|--|
| <p>Enhance training on organic agriculture production and technologies, certification schemes, standards and regulations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA Implementing Agencies and Regional Field offices; • Academe, CSOs, Private Organizations • Certified organic Farmers and Fisherfolks; and • New adopters and practitioners. | 2017-2023 | DA-ATI TESDA NOAP NPCO DA-BAFS DA-RFO SUC DepEd DA-BAR DOH DTI | No. of relevant stakeholders capacitated |

Priority Action 3. Intensify nationwide promotional campaign on organic agriculture

| Activity 1. Continuous conduct of seminars with various stakeholders | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct awareness seminars on organic agriculture related standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organic Agriculture ● Organic Soil Amendments (OSA) ● Organic Biological Control Agents (BCA) ● Organic Milled Rice (Part 1 and 2) ● Organic Aquaculture ● Other standards to be developed | 2017-2023 | DA-ATI NOAP NPCO DA-BAFS | No. of awareness seminars conducted |
| 1.2. Conduct awareness seminars on newly approved guidelines relative to organic agriculture | | | |
| 1.3. Conduct awareness seminars on the advantages (e.g. environment, health, livelihood) of practicing organic farming | | | |

Priority Action 3. Intensify nationwide promotional campaign on organic agriculture (continued...)

| Activity 2. Develop and disseminate of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials through various means | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 2.1 Develop and disseminate brochures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard information on OA Law and its IRR • Regulations and Standards • FAQs on Organic Farming System and production | 2017-2023 | DA-ATI NOAP NPCO DA-BAFS | No. of developed and disseminated Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials No. of stakeholders who availed the IEC materials |
| 2.2 Translate relevant OA issuances, regulations, standards and essential IEC materials to local vernaculars | | | |
| 2.3 Develop and disseminate interpretive guide for organic agriculture production (PNS) for the consumption of focal person, extension workers/ service providers and farmer technicians | | | |
| 2.4 Employ and enhance QUAD media for fast and effective dissemination of IEC materials | | | |

Priority Action 3. Intensify nationwide promotional campaign on organic agriculture (continued...)

| Activity 2. Develop and disseminate of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials through various means | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 2.5 Continuously enhance of website to be more interactive, user-friendly and avenue to link the farmers/ fisherfolks/ producers to the markets/ consumer | 2017-2023 | DA-ATI NOAP NPCO DA-BAFS | No. of developed and disseminated Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials No. of stakeholders who availed the IEC materials |
| 2.6 Compile and disseminate of success stories of OA Farmers | | | |
| 2.7 Facilitate technology exchange programs | | | |
| Activity 3. Convert OA Learning sites into farm tourism sites | | | |
| 3.1 Conduct periodic review of the existing guideline on the ladderized system of establishing OA farm tourism Site | 2017-2018 | DA-ATI DA-RFO SUC NGO | Increased no. of OA learning site converted to farm tourism sites |
| 3.2 Publish the revised guideline on the ladderized system of establishing OA farm tourism Site | | | |
| 3.3 Implement the revised guideline on the ladderized system of establishing OA farm tourism Site | | | |

Priority Action 4. Enhance access on various organic agriculture principle through formal and non-formal education

| Activity 1. Establish and enhance basic curriculum framework and course guideline | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Establish TWG | 2017-2019 | DepEd CHED ATI | Curriculum |
| 1.2 Conduct regular meetings | | | |
| 1.3 Conduct public consultation | | | |
| 1.4 Finalize the curricula | | | |
| 1.5 Conduct pilot testing in selected school | | | |
| 1.6 Conduct assessment | | | |
| 1.7 Review and revise curricula | | | |
| Activity 2. Integrate organic agriculture in school curricula at all levels | | | |
| 2.1 Conduct inception meeting on the implementation of integrating organic agriculture and aquaculture in the school curricula at all levels | 2019-2023 | DA DepEd CHED | No. of modules/syllabus developed and integrated in school curricula |
| 2.2 Develop learning modules/syllabus on organic agriculture | | | Increased number of SUCs offering courses related to OA |
| 2.3 Fully implement integration of organic agriculture and aquaculture in the school curricula at all levels | | | Incorporation of OA (K to 12), technical-vocational courses |

Priority Action 4. Enhance access on various organic agriculture principle through formal and non-formal education (continued...)

| Activity 3. Establish distance learning program specifically for organic agriculture | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 3.1 Develop guideline on the creation of online courses (e-Learning) for organic agriculture | 2017-2018 | DA DepEd CHED DOST | Increased number of SUCs with online courses related to OA No. of enrollees in the e-Learning program |
| 3.2 Create e-Learning courses and platform | 2019-2023 | | |
| Activity 4. Revise training regulation of Technical Education and Skill Development Authority (TESDA) | | | |
| 4.1 Conduct inception meeting on the revision of training regulation of TESDA | 2017 -2018 | DA TESDA | Revised training regulation of TESDA on organic agriculture |
| 4.2 Develop guideline or proposal for the revision of training regulation on Organic Agriculture | 2018-2019 | | Revised training regulation of TESDA on organic agriculture |

STRATEGIC THEME 4

Production and Post-production Support Services

Strategic Thrust 4 – Increase productivity of organic and aquaculture areas through provision of production, post production, and financial support services, and contribute to climate change mitigation strategies through intensification of conversion from conventional agricultural areas to organic agriculture and aquaculture areas.

Strategic Objectives:

- *To enhance and extend financial support services to organic agriculture farmers and fisher folks ;*
- *To continue provision of production and post-production support services to organic agriculture farmers and fisher folks.*

Priority Actions are:

1. Establish and implement financial support services for organic agriculture (by NOAB, DA-BAFS/RFOs, NOAP-NPCO, ACPC, PCIC, LBP and other government and non-government lending institutions); and
2. Continue provision of production and post-production support services to organic agriculture farmers and fisher folks (by RFOs and implementing agencies, BAFS, NOAB, NOAP-NPCO).

Priority Action 1. Establish and implement of financial support services for organic agriculture

| Activity 1. Develop guidelines for the establishment of Credit and Insurance Program for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture | | | |
|---|-----------|---|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Create a National Technical Working Group (NWTG) for the Development of Guidelines for the Establishment including policies, operation, and monitoring and evaluation of the Credit and Insurance Program for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture | 2017-2019 | NOAB DA-BAFS | No. of Special Orders approved NTWG established |
| 1.2. Conduct NTWG meetings to finalize the following guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a Credit/Loan Window, for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture • Expansion of Insurance Scope for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture | 2017-2019 | NOAB DA-BAFS ACPC LBP PCIC | Guidelines approved |
| 1.3. Develop plan and budget for the implementation of Financing Program for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture | 2019-2023 | NOAP-NPCO with collaborating agencies (ACPC, LBP, PCIC) | No. of plan and budget (APP/PPMP) approved |

Priority Action 1. Establish and implement of financial support services for organic agriculture (continued...)

| Activity 2. Implement Credit and Insurance Program for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture | | | |
|--|-----------|--|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 2.1 Conduct financial literacy seminars, orientation seminars on Credit and Insurance Program for Organic Agriculture | 2019-2023 | DA-RFOs | No. of literacy seminars/ orientation seminars conducted |
| 2.2 Conduct collaborative activities with other government and non-government lending institutions on the establishment and implementation of Credit and Insurance Program for Organic Agriculture and Aquaculture | 2019-2023 | NOAB, DA-BAFS NOAP NPCO ACPC PCIC LBP Other government and non-government lending institutions | No. of collaborative activities conducted |
| 2.3 Process application of organic agriculture and aquaculture stakeholders to financing program | 2019-2023 | ACPC LBP PCIC through the DA RFO | No. of Financing Program Applications approved (Amount of Loans/ Insurance provided, and Stakeholders who availed the Program) |
| 2.4 Monitor and evaluate of accounts/ beneficiaries of financing program | 2019-2023 | ACPC LBP PCIC through the DA RFO | No. of monitoring and evaluation reports submitted |

Priority Action 1. Establish and implement of financial support services for organic agriculture (continued...)

| Activity 3. Continued provision of project grants for organic agriculture and aquaculture | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 3.1 Revise existing administrative orders on the provision of project grants to be aligned with relevant government issuances | 2017-2019 | NOAB DA-BAFS, NOAP NPCO | No. of Guidelines revised and approved |
| 3.2 Ensure the inclusion of funding for project grants in the NOAP budget | 2019-2023 | NOAP NPCO DA-RFOs | No. of Plan and Budget (APP/PPMP) approved |
| 3.3 Review and process project proposals | 2019-2023 | DA-RFOs | No. of Project Proposals approved (Amount of Project Grants released, and Stakeholders who availed the Grants) |
| 3.4 Monitor and evaluate beneficiaries of financing program | 2019-2023 | DA-RFOs | No. of Monitoring and Evaluation Reports submitted |

Priority Action 2. Continue provision of production and post-production support services to organic agriculture farmers and fisherfolks

| Activity 1. Provide production and post-production equipment, tools and facilities ¹ | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct needs assessment activities for the prioritization of production and post-production interventions | 2018-2023 | NOAP Operating Units | No. of need assessment activities (stakeholders engagement/farmers forums) conducted No. of need assessment reports submitted |
| 1.2 Develop guidelines for the provision of production and post-production equipment, tools and facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for the Procurement of Machineries complied with the Agri-Fishery Mechanization Standards Guidelines for the Identification and Prioritization of Beneficiaries | 2018-2019 | NOAB NOAP-NPCO | No. of Guidelines approved |

Priority Action 2. Continue provision of production and post-production support services to organic agriculture farmers and fisherfolks (continued...)

| Activity 1. Provide production and post-production equipment, tools and facilities ¹ | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.3. Facilitate procurement and delivery of production and post-production equipment, tools and facilities | 2018-2023 | NOAP Operating Units | <p>No. of production and post-production facilities and other services provided to organic farmers and fisher folks</p> <p>No. of organic farmers and fisher folks availed of production and post-production facilities and services</p> <p>No. of Memorandum of Agreements signed and approved</p> |
| 1.4. Establish registry of beneficiaries | 2018-2023 | NOAP NPCO | <p>Registry of Beneficiaries established</p> <p>No. of beneficiaries included in the registry</p> |
| 1.5. Conduct monitoring and evaluation of beneficiaries | 2018-2023 | NOAP Operating Units | No. of monitoring and evaluation reports submitted |

Priority Action 2. Continue provision of production and post-production support services to organic agriculture farmers and fisherfolks (continued...)

| Activity 2. Provide technical and financial assistance toward third party organic certification | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 2.1 Revision of existing guidelines for the provision of technical and financial assistance toward third party organic certification | 2017-2018 | NOAB BAFS NOAP-NPCO | No. of Guidelines approved |
| 2.2 Implementation of the guideline for the provision of technical and financial assistance toward third party certification | 2017-2023 | DA-RFOs | No. of certified operators provided with certification assistance |
| 2.3 Conduct Monitoring and Evaluation of beneficiaries | 2017-2023 | DA-RFOs | No. of certified operators provided with certification assistance |



STRATEGIC THEME 5

Market Support Services

Strategic Thrust 5: Strengthening and mainstreaming the marketing of organic agriculture and aquaculture towards competitive and sustainable organic industry.

Strategic Objective:

To increase distribution channels of organic products through provision of market support services.

Priority Actions are:

1. Increase accessibility and availability of organic products in the local and international markets (by DTI, DA-AMAS/RFOs, NOAP-NPCO, LGUs); and
2. Educate farmers /farmer groups on organic agriculture and aquaculture as enterprise/business (by DA-AMAS/RFOs, DTI, DAR, DILG, LGUs).

Priority Action 1. Increase accessibility and availability of organic products in the local and international markets

| Activity 1. Provide market support services | | | |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Strengthen existing Organic Trading Posts (OTPs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalization of non-operative OTPs Conduct of trainings and seminars | 2018-2023 | AMAS DA-RFOs NOAP NPCO DTI LGU | Guidelines for establishment of OTPs revised Trainings and seminars conducted |
| 1.2 Establish OTPs and market stalls/outlets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revision of existing guidelines for establishment of OTPs and stalls/outlets Conduct of monitoring and evaluation of OTPs and stalls/outlets | | | No. of OTPs and stalls/outlets established No. monitoring and evaluation reports submitted |
| 1.3 Continuous provision of rental subsidy assistance for at most six (6) months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review or revise guidelines for the provision of rental subsidy Review or revise guidelines for the provision for monitoring/surveillance | | | No. of stakeholders availed of rental subsidy |
| Activity 2. Conduct trade promotions activities | | | |
| 2.1 Conduct trade fairs, participate to international trade fairs/exhibits, market days, and market matching activities | 2018-2023 | DTI AMAS DA-RFO LGU NOAP NPCO | No. of trade fairs, market days, and market matching activities conducted |
| 2.2 Develop OA Buyers and Producers Directory including updating and validating of the directory through an online system | | | OA Directory developed |

Priority Action 2. Educate farmers/farmer groups on organic agriculture and aquaculture as enterprise/ business

| Activity 1. Capacitate farmers and fishers as Agri-preneurs | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Develop cost and return, investment opportunities and business plan | 2018-2019 | AMAS DA-RFOs DTI DAR DILG LGUs | Cost and return, investment opportunities and business plans developed |
| 1.2 Conduct seminars on enterprise literacy | | | No. of enterprises assisted No. of enterprise development seminars conducted |
| 1.3 Conduct value chain analysis for identified priority commodities for OA | | | Value chain analysis report |



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STRATEGIC THEME 6

Regulatory Support Services

Strategic Thrust 6: Ensure organic integrity and consumer confidence, and enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access, through sound and harmonized regulatory management system.

Strategic Objectives:

- *To ensure organic integrity and consumer confidence with organic products, and protect consumers from fraudulent practices;*
- *To strengthen official accreditation of organic certifying bodies by ensuring policies and procedures are harmonized with international best practices to facilitate market access of organic products;*
- *To enhance collaboration of relevant regulatory agencies in implementing the registration of organic food, non-food, and input producers;*
- *To ensure harmonized collaboration of relevant regulatory agencies for the enforcement of labelling of organic food, non-food and input products;*
- *To ensure continuous development and updating of organic agriculture and aquaculture standards in order to harmonize with regional and international best practices.*

Priority Actions are:

1. Strengthen official accreditation system of third –party organic certifying bodies (OCBs) to facilitate market access of organic products (by DA-BAFS);
2. Strengthen licensing and registration mechanisms for organic food, non-food producers (by DA-BAFS/RFOs);
3. Operationalize labelling enforcement mechanism for organic food , non-food and input products (by DA-BAFS);
4. Ensure Philippine National Standards relevant to organic agriculture and aquaculture are harmonized with regional and international standards (by DA-BAFS).

Priority Action 1. Strengthen Official Accreditation System of third-party organic certifying bodies (OCBs) to facilitate market access of organic products

| Activity 1. Increase number of OCBs | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Conduct orientation seminar to potential OCBs | 2017-2023 | DA-BAFS | Orientation Seminars conducted |
| Activity 2. Effective implementation of Official accreditation program | | | |
| 2.1 Review existing guidelines for official accreditation | 2017-2023 | DA-BAFS | Guideline/s reviewed/ revised |
| 2.2 Conduct awareness and advocacy for regulations | | | No. of Officially accredited OCBs |
| 2.3 Conduct assessments of officially accredited OCBs | | | Seminar/Awareness activities conducted |
| 2.4 Conduct harmonization meeting with DTI-PAB to ensure harmonized procedures for official accreditation | | | Assessment conducted |
| 2.5 Conduct regular meetings of accreditation committee | | | Minutes of meeting |
| 2.6 Conduct capability building for the accreditation committee and assessors | | | Minutes of meeting or resolutions |
| | | | No. of capability building activities conducted |

Priority Action 2. Strengthen licensing and registration mechanism for organic food, non-producers

| Activity 1. Develop guidelines on licensing of organic input producers including issuance of import permit | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Establishment of Technical Working Group (TWG) | 2017-2018 | DA-BAFS | Guideline for Licensing of Organic Input Producers approved |
| 1.2 Conduct of Regular Meetings of TWG | | | |
| 1.3 Conduct of Public Consultative Meetings | | | |
| 1.4 Publication of Guideline | | | |
| Activity 2. Facilitate registration of organic food and non-food producers | | | |
| 2.1 Strengthen the guidelines for registration of organic food (including DOH-FDA for processed, pre-packaged and imported food and other relevant agencies) and non-food producers | 2017-2023 | DA-BAFS DA-RFOs | No. of registered organic food, non-food producers |
| 2.2 Register organic food and non-food producers | | | |
| Activity 3. Increase the pool of competent OA Researchers for Inputs | | | |
| Conduct seminar workshop for the recognition of OA researchers | 2017-2023 | DA-BAFS | No. of seminar workshop conducted |

Priority Action 2. Strengthen licensing and registration mechanism for organic food, non-producers (continued...)

| Activity 4. Establish electronic registration system | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 4.1 Establish Technical Working Group (TWG) | 2017-2019 | DA-BAFS | TWG established |
| 4.2 Conduct regular meetings of TWG | 2018-2020 | | Minutes of Meetings |
| 4.3 Develop Electronic registration system including the database | 2019-2022 | | Electronic Registration System and Database of registered organic input production, importation and utilization established |
| 4.4 Pilot test the Electronic Registration System | 2020-2022 | | Electronic Registration System pilot tested |
| Activity 5. Conduct validation/verification activities of registered/ licensed operators | | | |
| 5.1 Conduct capability building for the organic agriculture validation team | 2017-2023 | DA-BAFS | No. of capability building activities conducted |
| 5.2 Conduct monitoring and post-market surveillance to registered and licensed of organic food, non-food and input producers to ensure compliance with the standards | 2017-2023 | DA-BAFS DA-RFOs | Validation/ Verification Reports |

Priority Action 3. Operationalize labelling enforcement mechanism for organic food, non-food and input products

| Activity 1. Develop guidelines on labelling enforcement of food, non-food and input products | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|--|
| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
| 1.1 Establishment of Technical Working Group (TWG) on labelling enforcement of food, non-food and input products (including DOH-FDA for processed and pre-packaged food and other relevant agencies) | 2017-2018 | DA-BAFS | Guidelines approved Technical Working Group (TWG) established |
| 1.2 Conduct series of writeshop | 2017-2019 | | |
| 1.3 Conduct public consultations | 2018-2019 | | |
| Activity 2. Collaborate with relevant agencies on organic labelling enforcement | | | |
| 2.1 Establish Labelling Enforcement Team | 2017-2018 | DA-BAFS | Labeling Enforcement Team established |
| 2.2 Conduct enforcement activities ⁹ | 2017-2023 | | Enforcement activities conducted |

⁹ Enforcement activities may include, but not limited to, actions against complaints, actions against validated reports, periodic proactive inspections in the supermarkets, market outlets, and trading posts.

Priority Action 4. Ensure Philippine National Standards relevant to organic agriculture and aquaculture are harmonized with regional and international standards

Activity 1. Develop PNS relevant to organic agriculture and aquaculture

| Sub-Activities | Timeline | Lead Agency | Output Indicator |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| 1.1 Establishment of Technical Working Group (TWG) | 2017-2023 | BAFS | PNS developed |
| 1.2 Conduct regular meetings of TWG | | | |
| 1.3 Conduct public consultative meetings | | | |
| 1.4 Publish PNS | | | |

Activity 2. Revision of existing PNS relevant to organic agriculture and aquaculture

| | | | |
|---|-----------|------|-------------|
| 2.1 Establish Technical Working Group (TWG) | 2017-2023 | BAFS | PNS revised |
| 2.2 Conduct regular meetings of TWG | | | |
| 2.3 Conduct public consultative meetings | | | |
| 2.4 Publish revised PNS | | | |

IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

Budgetary Requirement

The plan will require a total budget of Php 5 billion to support the various priority actions during the plan period (Figure 6). Adequate support shall be provided for the establishment of seed banks and livestock multiplier farms, third-party certification, linking farmers to the market and other innovative market development activities, incentives to agriculture extension workers, and strengthening results-based monitoring and evaluation.

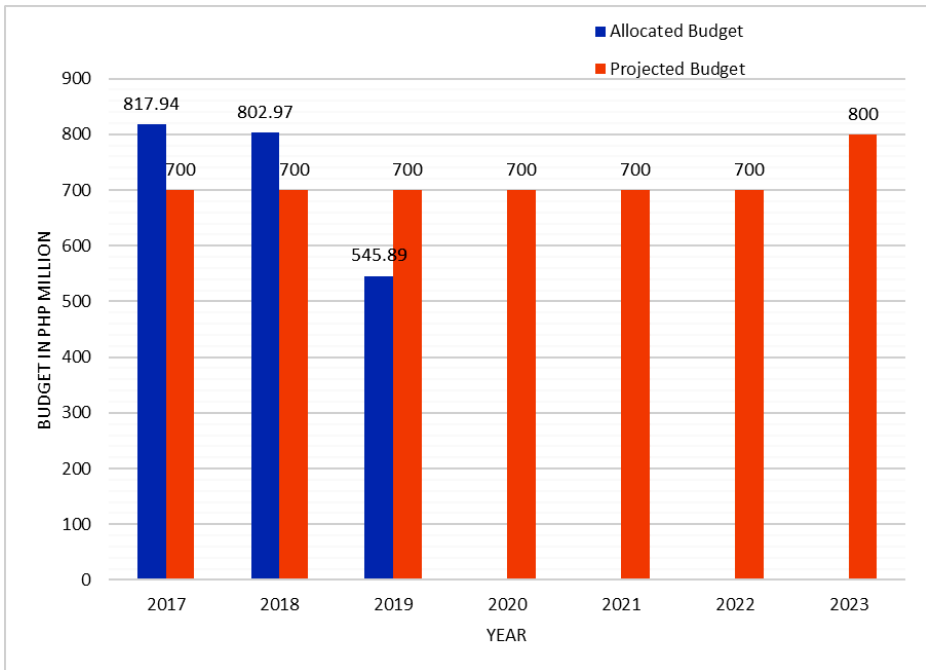


Figure 7. Allocated and projected annual fund allocation for NOAP 2017-2023

Communicating the Plan

Through the NOAB, various stakeholders from the national and local government units, academe, civil society and private sectors shall be encouraged to disseminate, promote and support the NOAP 2017-2023 through partnership and collaborative programs. The plan will be disseminated and promoted through mass media and innovative awareness activities including national and regional organic agriculture congresses and organic agriculture month celebration. A popular version of the plan will be prepared and shared with the other stakeholders such as the farmers, consumers, and the general public.

Plan Implementation

A. How to ensure broader adoption of organic farming practices by farmers:

For broader adoption of organic agriculture practices by farmers the following policy support shall be considered¹⁰:

- Improve certification process — The third party certification allowed by law is very tedious and expensive for small-scale farmers. Hence the need to consider the use of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for local consumption goods. To intensify organic farming, more certifying bodies should be accessible to organic producers, in addition to the two certifying bodies currently accredited, namely, Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP) and Negros Island Certification Services (NICERT).
- Build capacities of local and national implementers of the NOAP — LGUs, RFOs, regional and national offices should have trained and capable staff dedicated solely to organic agriculture to improve credibility and trustworthiness among organic producers. LGUs shall be capacitated not only on organic agriculture technology but also on other relevant aspects.
- Enhance access to organic inputs and IEC activities by mobilizing local and national network of agriculture and education-related agencies and organizations. These will include BPI, SCUs, ATI, NEDA-RDC, PCAARRD regional consortia, and NGOs.

¹⁰ Rola et al. 2016. "Policy support to organic agriculture in the Philippines". DA- BAR, Diliman, Quezon City, and UPLBFI, College, Laguna. Philippines

- Sustain the role and strengthen capacities of cooperatives in the production and commercialization of organic inputs and products – ATI and SCUs can provide capacity building to farmers and cooperative members on production of organic inputs , processing, packaging and labelling of organic products, and business operations in consolidating and commercializing organic inputs and products, and management of common facilities. Where irrigation facilities are provided, irrigators’ associations are created and members are trained in management and upkeep of facilities by NIA and/or the LGU.
- Improve the marketing system – Organic trading posts shall be established in strategic market demand centers through public-private partnership. LGUs shall be assisted in preparing proposals for this purpose. The established OTPs shall be made fully-operational and well-managed as a business enterprise. There shall be product disaggregation in market outlets for the protection of consumers, easy identification and higher premium for organic products. Provision of functional market information system will benefit small farmers to improve their knowledge regarding market, price, and demand for organic products. Likewise consumers and traders will have knowledge of the sources of organic products.

B. For more effective and sustainable implementation by IAs and RFOs:

- The DA implementing agencies (BAI, BPI, BAR, BSWM, BFAR, BAFS, AMAS, ATI) and the RFOs shall each develop a road map consistent with NOAP 2017-2023.
- BAI, BPI, BFAR and BAR shall aim to address the limited available organic inputs (seeds, livestock, fingerlings) needed by

the growing number of potential organic practitioners through establishment of seed banks and multiplier farms. BSWM shall address the irrigation needs, farm machineries and equipment requirement of organic practitioners.

- AMAS needs to develop and strengthen market-related events to expand market reach of organic produce. AMAS shall ensure that the established OTPs shall be fully-operational linking farmers to the market.
- ATI shall sustain innovative awareness activities promoting and disseminating organic agriculture practices, reaching out not only to organic practitioners but also to consumers and the general public. ATI and RFOs shall further capacitate and train OA focal persons on ICS manual preparation and geo-tagging/basic GIS. They shall ensure that learning sites become third-party certified organic and those areas shall be included in the total area converted to organic farmland.
- BAFS shall optimize the role of OCBs, explore the possibility of having strategic island-wide OCBs to cope with the increasing number of applicants for certification assistance, thus contributing to the achievement of the program's target of converting 5% of total agricultural land to organic farming, and certifying 2-3 % of them by 2023.
- IAs and RFOs shall endeavour to designate staff dedicated solely to OA, and management shall provide incentives to OA focal persons and AEWs to facilitate and sustain program implementation.

C. How to achieve complementation, inclusiveness and more meaningful partnership

- The NOAB shall champion the integration of organic agriculture in school curricula, and institutional support to promote the health and environmental benefits of organic produce, starting with children and the youth.

- The participation of and corresponding support to small farmers and indigenous peoples (IPs) shall be given priority.
- Complementation, partnership and collaboration among partners shall be pursued through joint memoranda specifying among others leveraging funds for relevant priority activities, regular dialogues and feedback at national and local levels, congresses, and other more innovative OA-related projects and events.
- Likewise stronger coordination among IAs and RFOs shall be ensured through regular dialogues and consultations.

Result-based Monitoring and Evaluation

A sound data based management (national and regional) shall be adopted, periodically reviewed and strengthened for a well-informed decision-making. Specifically, profiles of organic practitioners, certified farms, data of organic produce by commodities, sales during trade fairs shall be collected systematically, recorded, documented, and updated. For more effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation, the system of data collection shall be harmonized and strongly coordinated with the PSA and LGUs .

The present system of mid-year and annual assessments of accomplishments of IAs and RFOs shall be continued to identify both policy and implementation issues and concerns, and to address them accordingly. A mid-term assessment of the plan in 2019/2020 shall be commissioned to external evaluator/s for an objective assessment and insights into the progress of plan implementation, and identification of much needed adjustments to fully achieve the set targets and objectives. A summative evaluation or impact assessment of the NOAP 2017-2023 shall be conducted by external evaluator/s beginning the second quarter of 2023 to evaluate the overall performance of the program.

National Organic Agriculture Board

FY 2014-2017

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Development of NOAP FY 2017-2023

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REFERENCES

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Opening ceremonies during the Luzon-wide Consultative Meeting cum Workshop last January 15-18, 2017 in Pampanga City.



Dr. Marvin Quilates, DA RFO 1 OA Focal Person, provided his comments and recommendations on one of the breakout session outputs during the Luzon-wide Consultative Meeting cum Workshop last January 15-18, 2017 in Pampanga City.



Discussion regarding the updates on the OA R&D activities of DA-BAR during the Visayas-wide Consultative Meeting cum Workshop held on July 25-28, 2017 in Dausi, Bohol.



Mr. Vidente Limsan, Jr. of the BAFS provided a clarification on the query regarding the official accreditation of OCBs during the Visayas-wide Consultative Meeting cum Workshop held on July 25-28, 2017 in Dausi, Bohol.



Mr. Ronald John Lamano, the NOAB Secretary, discussed the rationale and workshop mechanics during the Mindanao-wide Consultative Meeting cum Workshop in General Santos City last April 17-20, 2017.



One of the participants made his comments and recommendations on one of the breakout session outputs during the Mindanao-wide Consultative Meeting cum Workshop in General Santos City last April 17-20, 2017.



The members of the NTWG convened for a meeting on October 19, 2016 to review proposed logical framework and to discuss the NOAP FY 2017-2022' key performance indicators (KPIs).



The NTWG convened for a meeting on August 10 and 11, 2017 to review and discuss the consolidated outputs of the public consultative workshops. Dr. Beatriz del Rosario, technical consultant, was also present to gather additional inputs .



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



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