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Opisyal na Pahayagan ng Kawanihan ng Pamantayan sa Pagsasaka at Pangisdaan

PAMANTAYAN

Unang Isyu

Enero - Hunyo 2020



BAFS: Six-year journey towards quality and performance excellence

BAFS 2020-2025 Strategic Plan—manifestation of what the management intends to do and achieve in the next six years

PAMANTAYAN is the official newsletter published by the BAFS. This will be published every semester to highlight the agency's achievements and impact, and serve as a platform to provide news to our wide array of stakeholders.

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Year 2020 marks the 22nd year of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) since the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997 was promulgated. This is also the year of self-assessment of the performance of the Bureau since its creation. A six-year Strategic Plan was developed anchoring on the quality of service and performance excellence.

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Information is power!

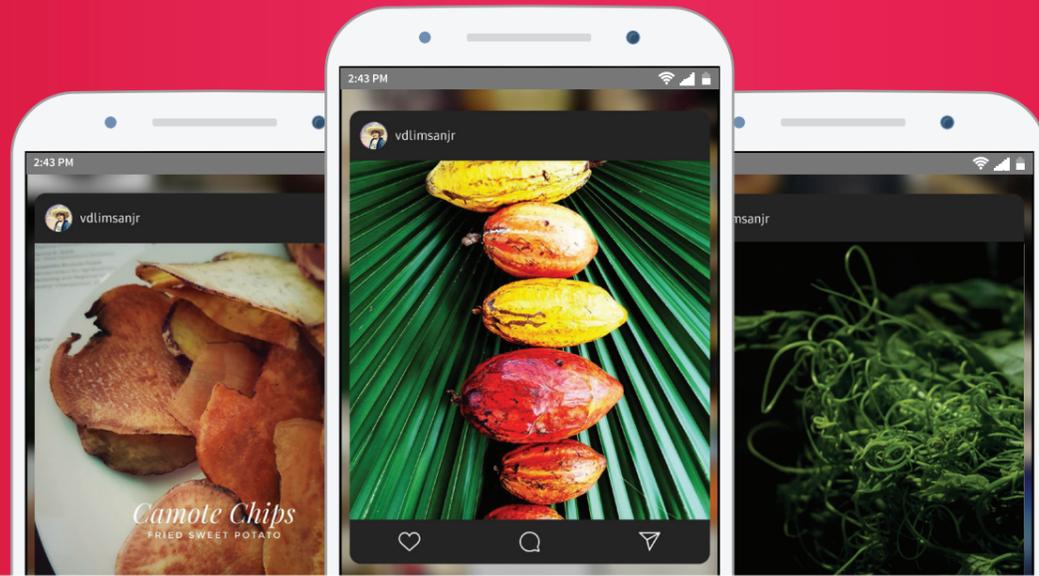
Today, the world moves because of the power of information. Information travels and spreads fast in a speed that I have never fathomed. Almost everything we wanted to know are in our fingertips. However, allow our office to be traditional with the aid of information technology. We are harnessing the use of technology by coming out with an electronic newsletter. Our newsletter is made to provide everyone tidbits on food safety standards among others.

Our office sets Agriculture and Fisheries Standards. In addition, organic agriculture and halal are also components of Standards. So, what are really these Standards? How do we make Standards? Who will use the Standards? Are these standards beneficial to the agriculture Industry? The list of questions is long. And I have no intentions of enumerating and answering the questions.

We look forward that you will find our newsletter a good read. And we will appreciate to receive your comments. We believe that we can further improve this communication material of ours because of your remarks. Please message us. Let us know what you feel and think.

Happy reading everyone!

*Are you a foodie?
or just want to eat?*



Share with us your photos showing your
safe and healthy diet
and get featured in the next issue of our newsletter.

To submit your photos,
kindly fill-out the online form through the link below:

<http://bit.ly/HealthyFoods-DietPhoto>

or scan the QR code below:



BAFS maintains ISO certification

Jenny Lee Cambe • @jlm.c

The Bureau the Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) has been recertified to ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) after successfully passing the second level audit last February 18, 2020.

Conducted by one of the leading multinational certification bodies in the country, TUV SUD PSB Philippines' findings to the audit were zero (0) major non-conformity, nine (9) minor non-conformities, and eight (8) opportunities for improvement. Root cause analysis, correction and corrective action were then submitted to address the said findings. The certification is valid for the next three years with an annual surveillance audit.

Scope of certification includes (1) Development of Philippine National Standards for Agriculture and Fishery; (2) Provision of Official Accreditation to Organic Agriculture Certification Bodies; (3) Registration of Organic Agricultural Inputs; (4) Verification of Registered Organic Agriculture Operators; (5)

Provision of Technical and Administrative support to National Organic Agriculture Board; (6) Creation of Linkages and networking with various stakeholders of organic agriculture and (7) Conduct of Impact Assessments for Philippine National Standards.

Staying true to its commitment to improve quality management system continually, the Bureau intends to add more of its processes into the certification scope in the coming years. ■



BAFS pushes for digital transformation, coping with the 'new normal'

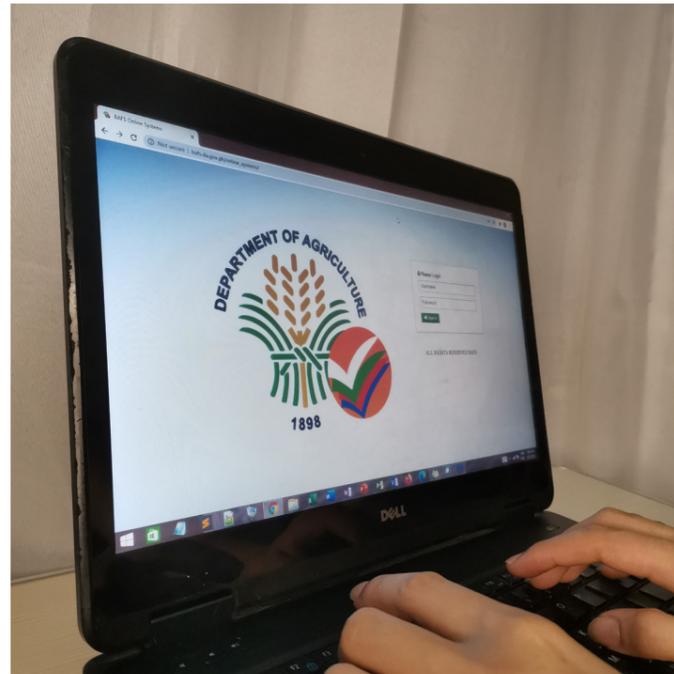
Zaireen B. Cleofe • @iamzaireen

To combat the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the workplace, the BAFS has expanded its efforts in digital transformation to comply with health protocols and continually achieve greater work effectiveness.

When the Enhanced Community Quarantine was implemented on March 15, 2020, Dir. Vivencio R. Mamaril, BAFS Director, conducted in-house video-teleconference meetings that directed a digitally-driven work arrangement for the Bureau. The employees were adaptive using different video-teleconferencing platforms such as Webex, Google meet, Zoom, Facebook and StreamYard in one-on-one to large scale meetings. Through these platforms, BAFS employees stayed connected and were productive in a Work-from-Home arrangement. Internal Consultation to harmonize forms and templates for BAFS online activities were conducted to further enhance digital competence of colleagues.

"Procedures for Extraordinary times" was drafted to redefine work practices and environments and adopt innovative approaches to secure the continuous engagement of employees, and the government and private stakeholders to the Bureau's activities.

With online meetings, BAFS observed that a host can accommodate more participants in a meeting and does not have to be concerned with budget and procurement for food and other necessities. Host and participant alike are more productive as travel time between meetings is eliminated.



Photos (top & bottom): Log-in page for the BAFS Online System, and the services available exclusive for BAFS Employees

” *Let us go paperless.*

VIVENCIO R. MAMARIL, Ph.D.
BAFS Director

The digital transformation at BAFS is in line with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Resolution No. 2000540 or the "Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic", dated 07 May 2020. Even before COVID-19 pandemic, Dir. Mamaril, has been encouraging its employees to utilize the use of information technology. "Let us go paperless", Dir. Mamaril, said. With this goal, BAFS Online System was developed last year for the online submission of reports.

For this year, 2020, three technical Divisions developed their system to digitalize some of their processes. BAFS will deploy the Online Commenting System which will ease the collection of valuable comments from the stakeholders for the development of Philippine National Standards, Explanatory Brochures, Illustrative Guides, and more. In addition, Online Registration of Organic Food and Input Producers and Online Profiling System of DA Laboratories are now ready for deployment before the end of the year.

Considering that becoming digital plays an important role in the agency's continual operations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and on to the new normal, BAFS continues to explore and unleash the potential of online technology in its processes. ■



Photo: Use of online platforms to conduct teleconferences (e.g. Cisco Webex)

DA Secretary approves two registration guidelines on organic agriculture

Ronald John L. Lamano • @rjohnlamano

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar recently approved two registration guidelines relevant to organic agriculture: the Department Circular (DC) No. 04, Series of 2020, or the Guidelines on the Registration of Organic Soil Amendments (OSA) Producers and Products, and the Department Circular (DC) No. 05, Series of 2020, or the Guidelines for the Registration of Organic Bio-control Agents (OBCA) Producers and Products.

These guidelines streamline the requirements and procedures for the registration of producers and products, ensuring that certified products being marketed are compliant with the current Philippine National Standards relevant to organic agriculture.

Both guidelines authorize the BAFS to issue Certificate of Registration (COR) for OSA and OBCA Producers, and Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) for OSA and OBCA products with a validity of five (5) years. Moreso, only registered producers can import or export products, and only registered products can be imported.

Registration of OBCA products maintains the requirement of conduct of efficacy testing under local condition and the application of experimental use permit with the BAFS. This requirement is no longer required with the registration of OSA products.

The registration of OSA and OBCA producers and products is in line with the Republic Act No. 10068 also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.

Both guidelines are available for download at www.bafs.da.gov.ph. ■

IATF approves the COVID-19 food safety guidelines for Philippine agricultural and fishery sector

Katrina L. Maminta • @kyutikaat

” *Food safety is everyone’s business, everyday.*

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director General

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) approved the Guidelines on Food Safety for Philippine Agricultural and Fishery Sectors during the COVID-19 Pandemic. On 13 May 2020, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar signed the Guidelines as Memorandum Circular No. 15. Series of 2020. The Guidelines aim to protect farm-workers and food business operators against the transmission of COVID-19, and promote food safety practices in the production, processing, handling and packaging, and delivery of goods. It also emphasized that food safety, hygiene, and quality standards and practices shall apply to preparations or operations from the farm to the households, including the canteens and retail markets.

The Bureau, with support from the DA Undersecretary and concurrent Chief-of-Staff Cheryl Mae Natividad-Caballero, drafted the said Guidelines to technically support the agriculture sector and the consumers during this challenging time. The Guidelines is aligned with the recommended practices, issuances, advice, and studies provided in

the Philippine National Standards (PNS), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the Department of Health (DOH), and the peer-reviewed journals.

“Food safety is everyone’s business, everyday In times of crisis, it’s more important than ever. We want to thank those who have continued to ensure that people can access safe food throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during his opening remarks last 8 June 2020 media briefing. And as a reminder, “this is the time for countries to continue to work hard, on the basis of science, solutions and solidarity” the Director-General added.

Although contact tracing and mass testing are the essential elements of COVID-19 response, everyone is encouraged to follow human and food safety measures at all times. For reference, the Memorandum Circular No. 15. Series of 2020 is available at <http://bit.ly/COVIDFoodSafetyGuide>. ■



COVER STORY

BAFS: Six-year journey towards quality and performance excellence

Jenny Lee M. Cambe • @jlm.c | Vicente D. Limsan, Jr • @vdlimsanjr

Starting this year, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards embarks on a journey gearing towards quality and performance excellence to become “the trusted agency for the development of agricultural and fishery standards within ASEAN, and in the enforcement of organic agriculture regulations”. The Bureau crafted the BAFS 2020-2025 Strategic Plan as a manifestation of what the agency intends to do and achieve in the next six years.

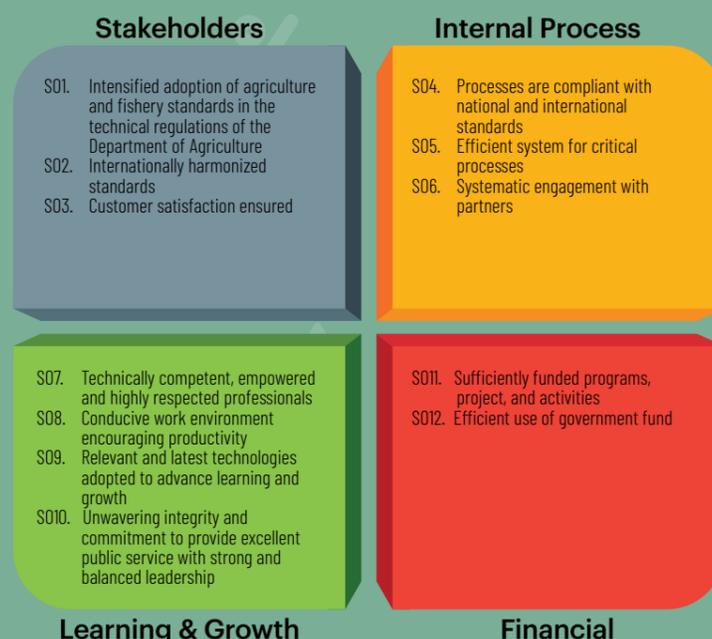
learning and organizational growth, and finance, ensuring a holistic and balanced approach.

Seven (7) major initiatives for implementation in the succeeding six (6) years and 11 quick wins to be implemented in the immediate months were identified by the BAFS Technical Working Group to achieve the strategic objectives. Moreover, twenty-seven (27) performance indicators/measures with their end-of-plan success indicators were also enumerated.

In partnership with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), a six-year medium plan has been formulated through a series of activities utilizing the Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS) and the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) Framework. The

participating middle and top management of the Bureau assessed the internal and external environment; revisited the mission, vision and core values; crafted the strategy map and scorecard; evaluated the strategic risks; and identified the possible quick wins, programs and projects.

Twelve (12) strategic objectives were then crafted to define the Bureau’s direction aligned with the current administration’s thrust and priority. These cover the four thematic perspectives of an organization: customer/stakeholder, internal processes,



Four thematic perspectives and the 12 strategic objectives

SEVEN MAJOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 1** Strengthening Connections and Bridging the Gap with Stakeholders
Establishing effective mechanism for strengthening stakeholder engagement, and increasing awareness of standards through adoption to technical regulations and use of popular format IEC materials
- 2** Working Towards Global Recognition
Increasing standards harmonized with relevant international member states by developing a reliable equivalence assessment mechanism that will strengthen the Philippine position in global market
- 3** Building Partnership: Proactive Approach for Stakeholders Engagement
Establishing a protocol that will systematize the engagement with internal and external partners, and collaborating with other agencies and institutions on the BAFS' Projects, Activities and Programs (PAPs)
- 4** EXCEL: EXCELlence in Delivery of Services
Establishing a quality management system geared towards delivering excellent services
- 5** META: Masayang Empleyado Tungo sa Asenso
Cultivating a conducive work environment and utilize relevant technologies to boost productivity
- 6** MORPH: Maging Organisado at Respetadong Pamantayan ng Husay
institutionalizing culture of excellence in people and organization through career and personal development, and adopting the latest technology to advance learning and growth
- 7** SAPPSER: Sapat na Pondo Para sa Serbisyo
Establishing a standardized procedure on the crafting and evaluation of the financial requirements of the Bureau; enhancing its personnel's skills on planning and budgeting, grant and proposal writing, and promotion of cooperation and collaboration with other agencies; monitoring and assessing BAFS physical and financial performance

Dubbed as DIRECT, the six (6) core values which will serve as the underlying principle to guide and direct the way the bureau will serve are Discipline, Integrity, Respect, Empathy, Commitment, and Teamwork.

The crafted BAFS 2020-2025 Strategic Plan will be the Bureau’s guide in fulfilling its mandate to develop and promote agricultural and fishery standards, and enforce organic agriculture regulations. ■



Group workshop activities



Group photo opportunity with partners from DAP and BAFS Personnel



PH hosts two ASEAN Expert Working Group Meetings

Vera Ysabel V. de la Cruz • @veraysabeldc | Jan Vincent DR. Tecson • @jvteacson

The Philippines, through DA-BAFS, simultaneously hosted the 11th Meeting of the Expert Working Group on ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (EWG-ASEAN GAP), and the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Expert Working Group on Organic Agriculture (EWG-OA) on 15-26 June 2020. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were successfully conducted, albeit inter-sessionally via e-mail exchanges.

Transitioning to the next long-term plans, the National Focal Points of both Expert Working Groups discussed and finalized the draft Plan of Actions for the ASEAN Cooperations for GAP and Organic Agriculture for 2021-2025. Subsequently, these Plans of Actions were submitted to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) for their approval and further endorsement to the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF).

Specifically, the 11th EWG-ASEAN GAP discussed the progress of activities under the Plan of Action (POA) for the ASEAN Cooperation in Good Agricultural Practices (2016-2020) and updates on the ASEAN cooperation projects with dialogue partners and international organizations.

As to the alignment of the revised national standards with the ASEAN GAP, BAFS reported that PhilGAP Standards is 100% aligned with the ASEAN GAP Food Safety Module.

Meanwhile, the 4th EWG-OA discussed the progress of activities under the POA for the ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture (2016-2020) including updates on the alignment of national organic standards with the ASEAN Standards for Organic Agriculture (ASOA), establishment of Mutual Recognition Arrangement for OA (MRA OA) and the ASEAN Certification Scheme for OA.

As part of the promotion of the usage of regional agricultural standards and best practices, the Philippines, through BAFS, also proposed a project for a regional training of trainers for OA. The proposed project aims to equip national trainers with salient knowledge needed for the integration of the ASOA into their national training programs.

BAFS Director Vivencio R. Mamaril chaired these meetings, participated by the heads and national focal points of ASEAN Member States (i.e., Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) as well as representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The Philippine delegation was composed of officers from BAFS and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

Next year, Singapore will host the 12th EWG-ASEAN GAP and 5th EWG-OA back-to-back meetings. ■

BAFS aims to improve consumers' perception of emerging food safety issues

Katrina L. Maminta • @kyutikaat

The BAFS issued two (2) Technical Bulletins from January to April 2020 to provide information on the emerging food safety issues and increase awareness among consumers so they can make informed decisions. The Technical Bulletins discussed topics such as the volcanic ash fall on agricultural and fishery commodities and the implication of dishwashing detergent in washing fruits and vegetables.

BAFS aims to identify and explain food safety concerns to protect people's health by providing information in the form of technical bulletins.

Explaining food safety concerns of volcanic ash fall on water, agricultural and fishery commodities from the areas affected by the Taal volcano eruption

On January 12, 2020, the Taal volcano started spewing plumes of smoke and ashes, which affected not only the livelihood of fisherfolks in the Taal lake but also crops and livestock in the nearby towns. As a food safety mitigation and a way to address the potential risk of significant fluoride levels adsorbed on ash, the Technical Bulletin recommended selecting

quality commodities, cleaning or washing them thoroughly, and cooking as appropriate.

Reminding the households how to wash fruits and vegetables properly

While the usual practice in washing fruits and vegetables is through the use of water, consumers are also exploring other ways to ensure fruit and vegetable safety. There are many studies published on how to reduce the number of microorganisms and remove residual pesticides effectively.

The Technical Bulletin looked into these studies and enumerated ways to minimize contamination as no washing method completely removes all the hazards which may be present on our fresh produce. Likewise, the Technical Bulletin concluded that washing fruits and vegetables with soap, detergent, or commercial produce wash might leave residues that will affect its safety and quality.

The technical bulletins are posted on the BAFS website and accessible through <http://bit.ly/DA-BAFSTB2020>. ■



BAFS calls for food safety experts

Katrina L. Maminta • @kyutikaaat

BAFS is inviting food safety experts to become part of the DA Pool of Experts (DAPE), who shall provide scientific advice to support the development of standards and issuance of technical regulations. The minimum requirements are to at least have an advanced university/college degree on microbiology, food science, chemistry, and/or related fields, with at least five (5) years of relevant work experience and knowledge in the principle of risk analysis. The experts shall be entitled to honoraria for every activity conducted concerning the function.

The first batch of the DAPE was signed by the former Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol on 18 June 2020 through Special Order No. 708 series of 2018. BAFS is intensifying its campaign for DAPE membership, and experts are encouraged to be part of this milestone and contribute to strengthening the country's food safety system.

The establishment of the DAPE is in fulfillment of the Bureau's mandate under the Republic Act No. 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013. Rule 16.8 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act No. 10611 states that BAFS shall organize the DA Pool of Scientific Experts for the development of food safety standards and the provision of scientific advice to the Secretary, the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, R&D and Regulations, the DA Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs) and the National Codex Organization (NCO).

Considering the current public health emergency and community quarantine, BAFS will utilize suitable online platforms to conduct activities related to this. Interested experts may apply through the online application system at <http://www.bafs.da.gov.ph/dape/> or submit their updated curriculum vitae at email address tsd.bafs@gmail.com. ■

Newly approved PNS for 1st Semester of CY 2020

Farlash D. Pancho • @farlashpancho | Jan Vincent DR. Tecson • @jvtacson

The DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) through the Standards Development Division (SDD) continues to develop Philippine National Standards (PNS) for agriculture and fishery products, machinery, and structure. For the 1st semester of CY 2020, the Bureau was able to endorse seven (7) PNS that were approved by Secretary William Dar.

The following approved PNS are:

1. Philippine National Standard for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides on Selected Imported Crops (PNS/BAFS 292:2020)
Date approved: January 17, 2020
2. Philippine National Standard on Sweet Cassava – Classification and Grading (PNS/BAFS 119:2020)
Date approved: May 6, 2020
3. Philippine National Standard for Good Agricultural Practices on Cassava (PNS/BAFS 150:2020)
Date approved: May 6, 2020
4. Philippine National Standard for the Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control System (PNS/BAFS 293:2020)
Date approved: May 6, 2020

5. Philippine National Standard for the Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment (PNS/BAFS 294:2020)
Date approved: May 6, 2020
6. Philippine National Standard for the Principles and Guidelines for the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety Application by Governments (PNS/BAFS 295:2020)
Date approved: May 6, 2020
7. Philippine National Standard on Milkfish – Fresh chilled and fresh frozen (PNS/BAFS 66:2020)
Date approved: June 20, 2020

Out of the seven newly approved PNS, three (3) PNS provide the quality specification of the end product while four (4) PNS specify recommended practices to meet food safety principles.

These PNS were developed by incorporating science-based information and experts' advice, through technical reviews and stakeholders' participation.

Copies of the approved PNS are available at <http://www.bafs.da.gov.ph>. ■



Department of Agriculture
**BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES STANDARDS**

*"...ensuring consumers' safety and product quality,
and contributing to environmental protection,
worker's welfare, and enhanced market access."*



FOLLOW BAFS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



DA lifts the prevailing additional import requirements on Japanese commodities

Katrina L. Maminta • @kyutikaat

On 8 January 2020, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar signed the Memorandum Order No. 01 Series of 2020, lifting the prevailing additional import requirements such as the Certificate of Radionuclide Analysis and Certificate of Origin on Japanese commodities. The Department previously imposed additional import requirements on Japanese commodities as a response to the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (FDNPP) accident. The additional import requirements were implemented as a precautionary measure to prevent the coming of food commodities possibly contaminated with radionuclide released during the FDNPP nuclear accident.

The decision on easing the import requirements was based on the result of a food safety assessment. The Bureau and the ad hoc Task Force on Radionuclide carried out the food safety assessment of radionuclide in fresh agricultural commodities such as fish, beef, apple, and pear. The assessment concluded that there is no significant food safety threat on the said commodities, and it is safe to lift the prevailing additional import requirements. "I'd like to emphasize my previous recommendation of lifting the additional requirements, but let's require Japan to regularly submit monitoring data signed by their competent authority," said Dr. Chitho Feliciano of the Philippine Nuclear Research

Institute (PNRI) during the meeting of the said ad hoc Task Force last 6 January 2020. The meeting agreed that there should be a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology on the radionuclide monitoring of Japanese food products exported to the Philippines.

As a brief background, the Bureau and the ad hoc Task Force on Radionuclide discussed this food safety issue during the meetings conducted in 2019. Food contaminated with radionuclide may increase the health risk associated with exposure to radiation. In the Philippines, the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) set the Guidance Levels for radionuclides as published in the PNRI Administrative Order No. 01 series of 2009. Japan has a well-placed food safety control mechanism in cases of nuclear accidents as guided by the Japan Food Sanitation Act No. 233 of 1947 and Japan Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, which was evident through their radionuclide monitoring data starting from the year 2014.

The Bureau initiated the food safety assessment following its mandate under the Food Safety Act of 2013. The relevant issuance can be accessed through <http://bit.ly/DA-MOIs2020>.



BAFS and the ad hoc Task Force on Radionuclide posed for a photo after the meeting on January 6, 2020. In the photo (standing behind from left), Ms. Jenny Lee Cambe, Ms. Katrina Maminta, Dr. Alpha Lanuza, Ms. Ann Lopez (PRS), Mr. Rodel Panganiban, Mr. Dennis Tiotango (BFAR), Dr. Amado Antonio (BAI), Ms. Janine Maramag (BAI), Ms. Mary Grace Mandigma, Ms. Sweet Jessabel de Guzman, and Dr. Raissa Marie Reformado; (sitting from left), Dr. Cesar Ortinero (CLSU), Dr. Chitho Feliciano (PNRI), Dr. Vivencio R. Mamaril (BAFS Director), and Dr. Lotis Francisco (UPD)

PINYAMAZING: Adventures ni Pina

Sweet Jessabel M. de Guzman • @swiitjessabel

Upang higit na maunawaan ang Philippine National Standard (PNS) on Fresh Fruit – Pineapple – Specification (PNS/BAFPS 09:2004) at PNS on Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Fruits and Vegetables (PNS/BAFS 49:2017), isang serye ng komiks ang aming inihanda.

Halina't samahan natin si Pina sa pagtuklas ng katangian ng de-kalidad na pinya!

Isyu 1: Hinog na ba ang pinya?

Kwento nina: Sweet Jessabel M. de Guzman, Raissa Marie R. Reformado at Jan Vincent DR. Tecson
Iginuhit ni Sweet Jessabel M. de Guzman

PINEAPPLE STAGES OF RIPENESS

Peel/Shell	1	2	3	4	5	6
Color	Completely green	Some eyes showing color	25% of the fruit showing color	<25% - 50% of the fruit showing color	<50% - 75% of the fruit showing color	>75% of the fruit showing color

Itutuloy...



PAMANTAYAN

Opisyal na Pahayagan ng Karwanihan ng Pamantayan sa Pagsasaka at Pangisdaan

Unang Isyu • Enero - Hunyo 2020