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PAMANTAYAN

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Hulyo-Disyembre 2021

BAFS' remarkable performance in e-Learning through webinars: Insights and strategies implemented

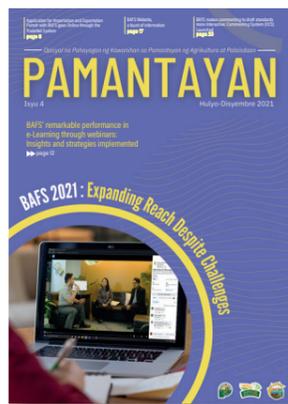
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BAFS 2021: Expanding Reach Despite Challenges



ABOUT THE COVER

As we tread on the new normal, BAFS, as the standards setting agency for agriculture and fishery sectors, shifted its learning and development activities to digital platforms. Various webinars, talks, and quiz shows on food safety and quality standards were launched to pique the interest of adult learners. In the coming years, BAFS aims to continuously expand its reach to disseminate information on standards.



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



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Vivencio R. Mamaril, PhD
Director IV

With pride, I am pleased to present our second semester 2021 edition of the PAMANTAYAN. This publication aims to continuously get news, information, and accurate data out to you in a timely manner as we did in the past.

Processes and procedures continue to modernize with the new approach of facilitating activities through great ideas and various innovation platforms. As we work together to achieve our mission and vision of improving the quality of our services despite restrictions and limitations, we remain steadfast in our commitment to you.

We at the BAFS, value your staying connected to us through print, so here we are, offering you a brief look at the wide array of information; a compilation of articles and infographics showcasing our milestones covering the July to December period, for you to get more in-depth information.

I do hope that you all have had a good year, at the same time taking high hopes that you remain in touch with the latest BAFS news through our Pamantayan newsletter. Thank you for your unwavering support for the Bureau and thank you for taking the time to read!

I am likewise appreciative of the BAFS writers' diligence and commitment to produce the highest quality of information material as well reflected by this output.

Warm regards.

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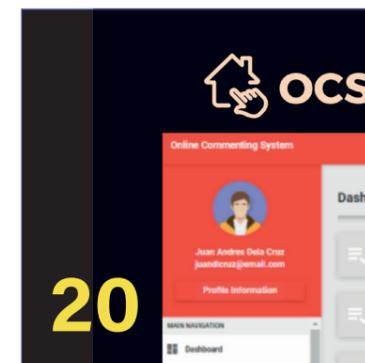
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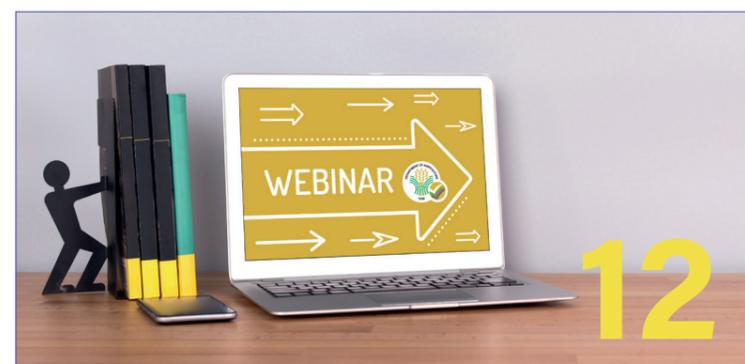
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BAFS website, a fount of information



Enhancing transparency and openness: PNS Online Commenting System (OCS) launched



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BAFS' remarkable performance in e-Learning through webinars: Insights and strategies implemented

We encourage our readers to photocopy and circulate articles in this newsletter with proper acknowledgment. Everyone is also encouraged to suggest topics or news relevant to standards.

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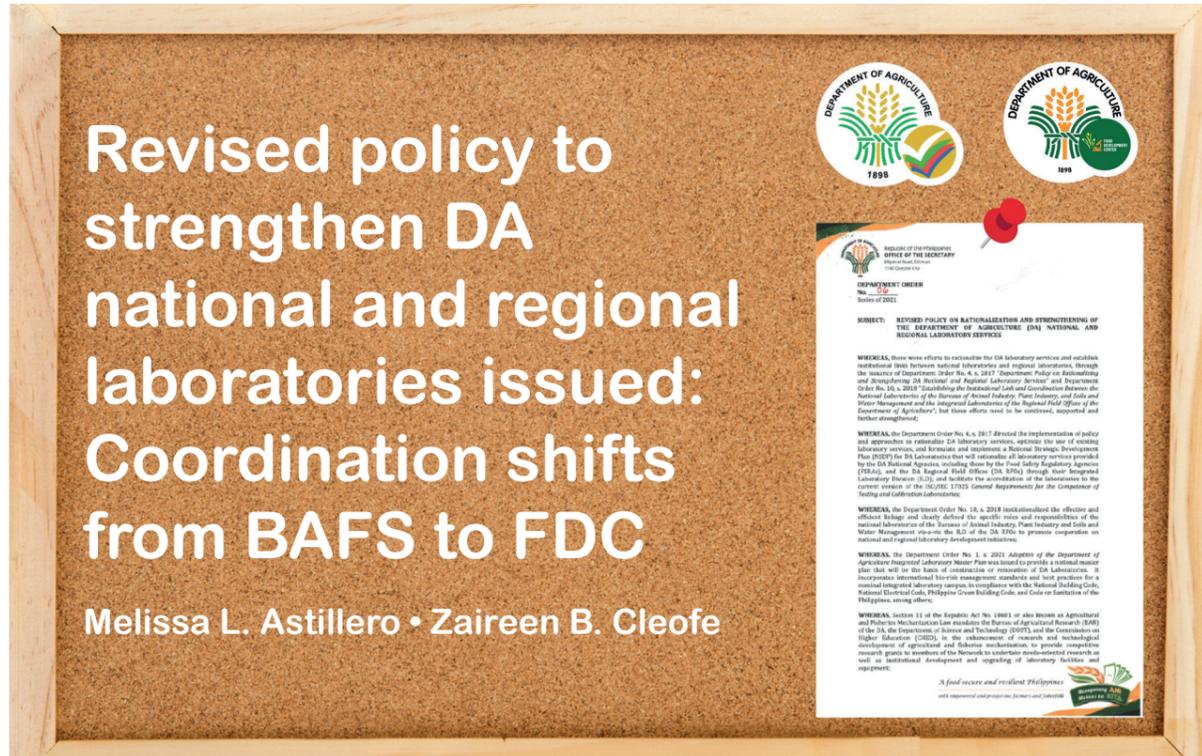
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Department of Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar on October 25, 2021, signed the Department Order (DO) 6 series 2021 titled Revised Policy on Rationalization and Strengthening of the Department of Agriculture (DA) National and Regional Laboratory Services. This landmark DO capitalizes on the achievements of previous Department issuances and drives home the importance of strengthening the capabilities of DA laboratories to support policies, regulations and enforcement, research and development, standards development, production, extension, and marketing services.

The DO designates the Food Development Center (FDC) as the new Coordinating Agency vice Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) as the former agency in charge of the function. The shift is consistent with the Food Safety Act of 2013, which identified FDC as the Coordinating Laboratory for DA Laboratories and mandated it to provide scientific support in testing, research, and training.

From the take-off of the achievements in DO 4 and DO 10, the FDC will take the lead in the overall coordination and planning of DA laboratories. This includes formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and updating of the National Strategic Development Plan, Management Information System and Laboratory Information Management System. FDC is also on top of overall assessments

of DA laboratories per ISO/IEC 17025 and statutory laws relevant to laboratory operations, as well as providing capacity-building activities on Good Laboratory Practices, and harmonization of testing services and fees, among others.

With the implementation of these efforts, laboratory services to support DA operations will be delivered more effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, farmers and fisherfolk would be able to use reliable facilities that will assist them to achieve "Masagang Ani at Mataas na Kita." The DA Service Laboratories will provide the laboratory analysis needed to guide our farmers and fisherfolk to mitigate problems and find solutions related to enhancing productivity, ensuring safety and addressing quality issues during farming.

FDC will also act as the secretariat for the Executive Committee, which is tasked to establish policies and procedures, monitor and evaluate the accomplishments and status of rationalization, call for a meeting, and provide guidance and ensure unified and aligned efforts in subsequent issuances concerning the DA laboratories.

The 6-month transition activities between the BAFS and FDC commenced in November 2021. ■

The Bureau and the DA Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) have worked hand-in-hand since the enactment of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. Several years later, these two offices remained partners in the development and promotion of the Philippine National Standards (PNS), and implementation of the organic agriculture regulations.

Come 2021, the BAFS continued to strengthen its partnership with the DA-RFOs through the Department Order (DO) No. 04, Series of 2021 titled Institutionalizing the Collaboration between the BAFS and the DA-RFOs. The DO established functional units in the DA-RFOs as the Bureau's regional counterparts. The collaboration is deemed necessary to reinforce BAFS' workforce in the implementation of its expanded functions based on several legislations including the Republic Act No. 11511.

Specific to the implementation of the BAFS' regulatory functions, Regional Focal Groups for organic agriculture regulations were created to coordinate, oversee, and supervise all regulatory activities relative to organic agriculture. These Regional Focal Groups are tasked to monitor registered organic operators and products, inspect farms of core Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups, provide assistance to the Bureau in the conduct of audits of organic certifying bodies and all activities relative to the registration process.

The BAFS, as the frontrunner, shall establish the necessary policies and procedures, lead the conduct of the accreditation and registration processes, and provide guidance and direction to the Regional Focal Groups towards uniformed and coordinated activities. In addition, the Bureau shall regularly capacitate its regional focal persons relative to its regulatory functions.

In support of this endeavor, the BAFS initiated several activities to clarify the collaboration mechanisms with the DA-RFO. In 2021, the BAFS conducted a series of regional focused group orientations to ensure a uniform understanding of the implementation of PGS regulations, virtual consultation with the DA-RFO to prepare the work and financial plan for CY 2023, and a week-long training on inspection and audits to capacitate the regulatory focal persons.

The BAFS commits to fostering its partnership with the DA-RFO through various collaborative activities such as but not limited to capability-building activities and consultations. As part of its commitment, the Bureau scheduled another round of capability-building activities for the Regional Focal Groups for organic agriculture regulations this CY 2022. ■



32 Philippine National Standards (PNS) approved for 2021, registers 160% accomplishment

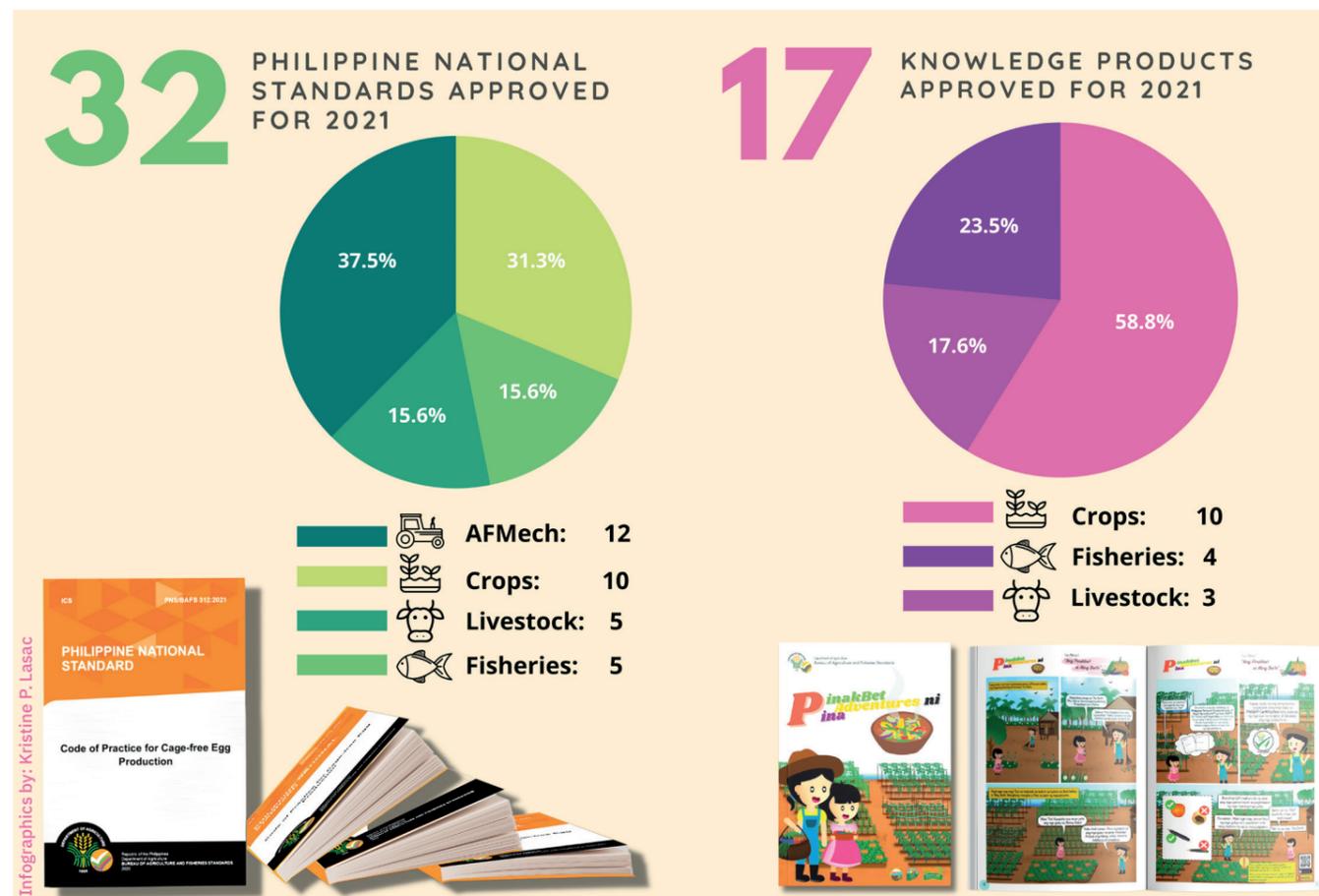
Kristel Alarice R. Aborido

In 2021, the Bureau registered a 160% accomplishment for standards development with 32 standards approved. This means that from a target of 20 standards, the Bureau was able to develop 12 more standards for primary and postharvest agriculture and fishery (AF) products, including organic agriculture and Halal, machineries and infrastructures.

The Bureau developed a total of 32 standards in 2021. Out of the approved PNS, 10 (31%) are food and non-food crop standards, 5 (15.5%) are livestock and poultry standards, 5 (15.5%) are fisheries standards, and 12 (38%) are agricultural and fisheries mechanization standards. There are 19 (59%) approved standards which are amendments of existing PNS, while the remaining 13 (41%) are newly developed PNS.

According to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), food safety refers to all those hazards, whether chronic or acute, that may make food injurious to the health of the consumer. It is not negotiable. Meanwhile, quality includes all other attributes that influence a product's value to the consumer. This includes negative attributes such as spoilage, contamination with filth, discoloration, off-odours and positive attributes such as the origin, colour, flavour, texture and processing method of the food. This distinction between safety and quality affects the development of public policy, and influences the nature and content of the food control system most suited to meet predetermined national objectives. Out of 32 approved PNS, 17 (53%) are food safety standards and 15 (47%) are quality product standards.

To date, there are 325 approved PNS for crops, fish and fishery products, livestock and poultry, Halal, organic agriculture, and agrifishery machinery and structures. These PNS are developed through Technical Working Groups (TWGs) specifically created for such purpose and in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The draft PNS underwent several TWG meetings and were presented to the relevant stakeholders during the initial and final



consultations held through virtual platforms such as Google Meet and Zoom Cloud Meeting.

Once approved by the DA Secretary, the approved PNS are endorsed to the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) for proper numbering and inclusion in the repository of national standards.

Consistent with the Bureau's mandate, the approved PNS will also be used during information dissemination through development of various knowledge products and conduct of learning and development activities. ■

BAFS intensifies its standards promotion through development of knowledge products

Kristine P. Lasac • Chester G. Benavidez

document. Moreover, to encourage reproduction and dissemination, non-commercial uses will be authorized free of charge upon request from the Bureau.

This boost in standards promotion is anchored on the BAFS Logical Framework that consequently amended the Bureau's organizational structure allowing TSD to focus its activities on the promotion of the PNS and consistent with the Bureau's commitment in ensuring consumers' health and safety by increasing the awareness and adoption of the PNS by the relevant stakeholders.

Among the KPs developed for the year 2021 are the following:

- EM on Code of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) wherein additional notes, clarifications and relevant images are provided to give readers deeper understanding of the requirements for GAQP;
- IGs for PNS Mango Specifications, PNS Pineapple Specifications and PNS Grains - Paddy and Milled Rice - Grading and Classification which provides supplementary photographs or images covering quality matters that are relevant to ensure the global competitiveness of the three commodities;
- Comics or illustrations combined with dialogues forming storyline for GAP Rice (Yun PALAYun), GAQP for Milkfish and Tilapia, Milkfish - fresh, chilled and frozen (Aqualing-galing), and Pinakbet - ampalaya, sitao, tomato, eggplant, squash (PinakBet Adventures ni Pina); and
- Infographics/posters of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides in Rice, MRLs of Veterinary Drug Residues, Chicken Cuts and Pork Cuts wherein graphical visual representation of data are presented in one page for easier comprehension.

The following KPs are accessible through BAFS's official website: www.bafs.da.gov.ph and are posted on different social media platforms. With this, the Bureau is hopeful that these materials will be instrumental in making the agri-fishery sector locally and globally competitive. ■

One of the means to promote the Philippine National Standards (PNS) is through the development of various Knowledge Products (KPs)— Explanatory Manuals (EM), Illustrative Guides (IG), comics and infographics— that are easier to understand by the general public.

In 2021, the Bureau through the Technical Services Division (TSD) has successfully developed 18 different KPs including 1 EM, 3 IGs, 10 comics, and 4 infographics, which is more than twice the number of KPs produced in 2020.

Despite the challenges brought by the new normal, dissemination of these materials became possible as the Bureau shifts to e-learning. The copy of the PNS and KPs are uploaded through the BAFS official website to allow users from different parts of the country to access and download their chosen

Application for Importation and Exportation Permit with BAFS goes online through the TradeNet System

Jenina B. Cusay • Anna Dominique V. Cadsawan

We are now LIVE on the TradeNet System!

This August 31, 2021, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) has officially finished the onboarding process to the TradeNet System. BAFS can now process online applications for the importation and exportation of organic input products via this System.

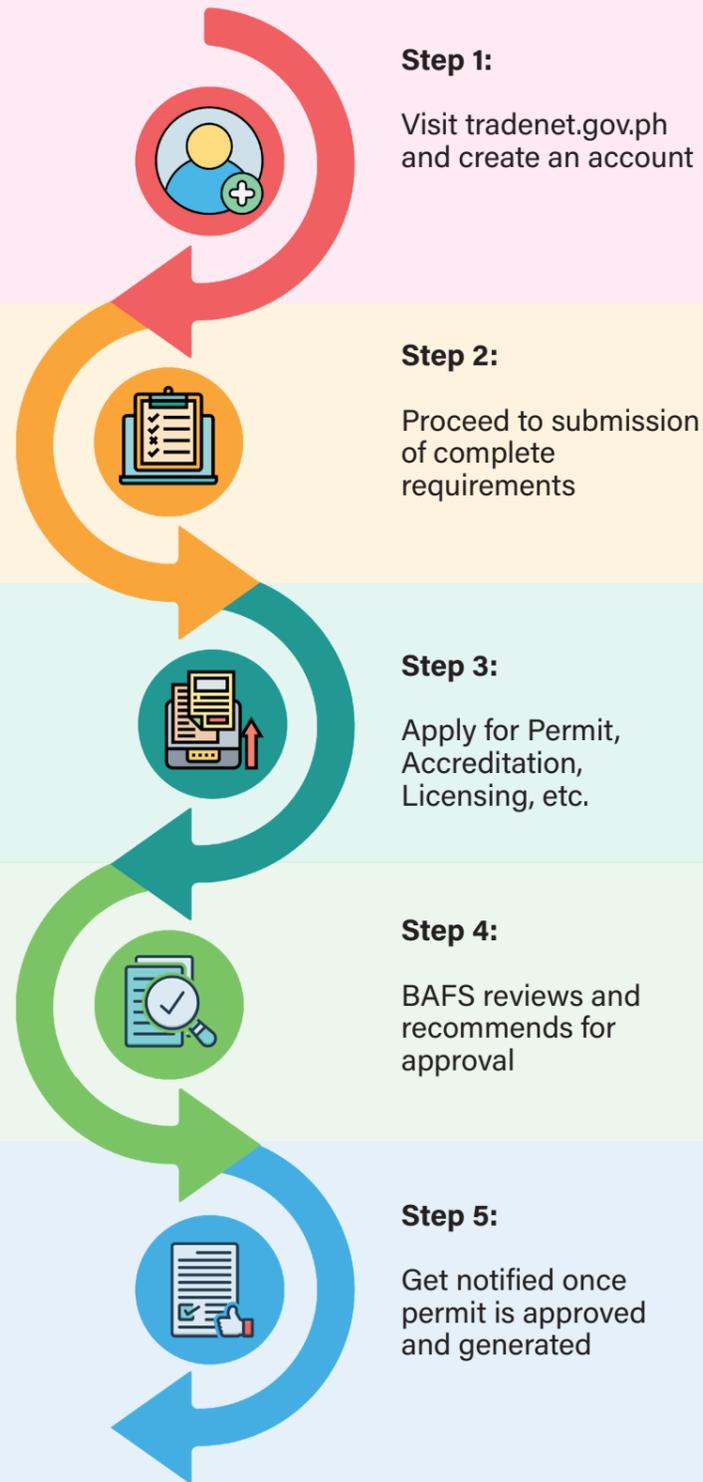
TRADENET.gov.ph is an automated and integrated licensing, permit, clearance, and certification system for regulatory agencies. It aims to connect all regulatory government agencies to trade facilitation processes interoperability and efficiency.

To be considered fully onboarded, the BAFS complied with the requirements. This included the identification of HS and AHTN Codes, creation of process flow for Import and Export Permits, submission of applicable policies, pilot user training of BAFS registered clients, and BAFS training of personnel engaged in the processing of the permits.

As one of the five (5) regulatory agencies that have on-boarded the TradeNet System, BAFS viewed this opportunity as a timely initiative. This move of the Bureau is also an effort to comply with **Republic Act 11032** or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018. This development will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of trade regulatory controls and will reduce the costs of doing business for the transacting public.

Through TradeNet, registrants can easily apply for permits without going to BAFS. They can get their permits by simply creating an account, logging in to the system, filling up the required fields, and attaching the required documents. Users will get to enjoy electronic/paperless, faster, and more transparent processing of import/export applications. Applicants can also view the application status in the systems' dashboard and get notified once the permit is approved and generated.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William D. Dar recently approved Department Circular No. 06, *Guidelines and Procedure in the Application, Processing, and Issuance of Organic Input Importation and Exportation Permits through the TRADENET.gov.ph* supplementing for this purpose the Department Circulars (DC) No. 04 and 05, series of 2020 and DC No. 01, series of 2021, to officially recognize this undertaking under DA. ■



Simple steps on applying for organic input products import/export permit via TradeNet System



BAFS gears up for the implementation of the amended OA Act of 2010

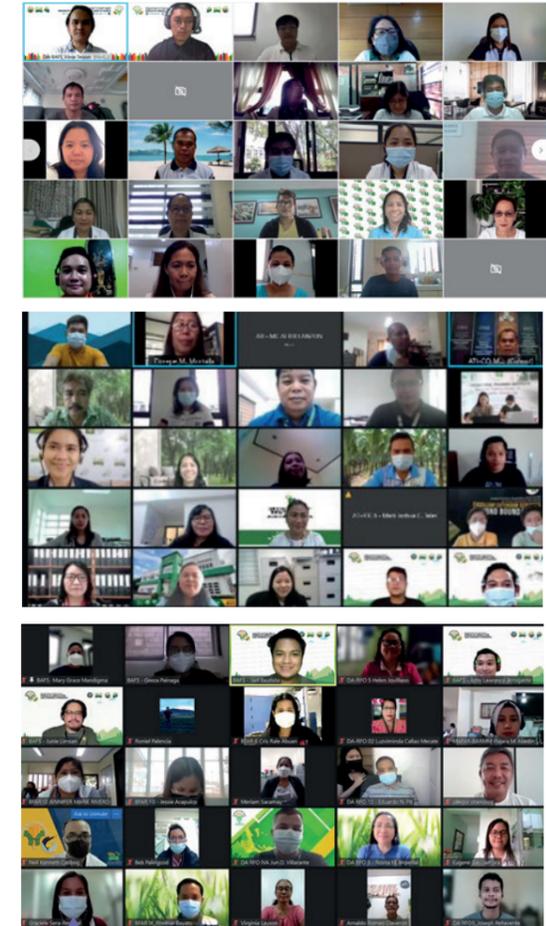
Geeza June V. Painaga

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) plays a major role in the promotion and development of organic agriculture even before the enactment of the Organic Agriculture Act in 2010. With the amendment of the law, the BAFS sets forth to new endeavors.

Republic Act No. 11511 primarily mandates the BAFS to formulate and update standards relative to organic agriculture and implement organic agriculture regulations. Specifically, the Bureau is further tasked to (1) accredit core PGS groups as organic certifying bodies (OCB), (2) issue registration of organic inputs - organic soil amendment and organic bio-control agents, (3) issue registration of integrated farms, and organic input producers, and (4) rule on the appeal of farm/farm owner on decisions made by the OCBs and the concerned municipal/city PGS groups relative to certification.

With this, the BAFS gears up to put in place the necessary mechanisms to perform its additional mandates. First, the Bureau developed two guidelines that set out the requirements and procedure for the accreditation of core PGS groups as OCB. Second, the Bureau collaborated with the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in the roll-out of PGS in the country. It also started to enhance the capability of its personnel and partner implementers from the DA Regional Field Offices (DA-RFO) in the conduct of inspection and audit of OCB.

By 2022, the BAFS anticipates an influx of applications for accreditation from the target core PGS groups of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP). However, the guidelines are yet to be approved pending the effectivity of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.



Various activities conducted by BAFS in support to the implementation of RA 11511 (from top left): Grand Launching of PGS, Virtual Orientation on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), Specialist Training Course on PGS, and Training on inspection of organic farms and audits of Organic Certifying Bodies (OCB)

While waiting, the Bureau has started the pre-assessment of the submitted Manual of Operations and pre-inspection of farms of the core PGS group members. Various activities are also lined up, which include a series of capability-building activities for the DA-RFO's Regulatory Division personnel, participation in ATI Regional Training Centers (ATI-RTC) Training of Trainers (TOT), and development of other technical regulations and templates. ■



BAFS TSD and ICU joined hands to boost standards promotion in the next four years, accredited as CPD units provider

Katrina L. Maminta • Brooklyn S. Flores

In the 2021 webinar series, a total of 32 approved PNS were discussed and live-streamed through the Bureau's official Facebook page with an average of 5,621 audience reach and 2,980 certificates issued to attendees. To further boost this attendance, the Bureau pursued accreditation with the Professional Regulation Commission - Continuing Professional Development Accreditation System (PRC-CPDAS) as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Provider Starting 2022, stakeholders and professionals attending and participating in the L&D activities of the Bureau will gain CPD credit units approved by the CPD Council of Agriculture.

The Bureau's knowledge products have also gone digital. Banking on the increased traffic of the website, TSD will continue to develop Explanatory Manual (EM), Illustrative Guide (IG), comics, and posters in digital format. In 2021, TSD published 11 KPs that can be accessed at the Bureau's website.

By 2025, TSD aims to promote 310 or 80% of the approved PNS through the development of KP and the conduct of L&D activities. To accomplish this, TSD strengthens its partnership with ICU to improve the linkage of the Bureau's social media platform with its website where KPs and L&Ds activities can be viewed and accessed. ■

The BAFS-Technical Services Division (TSD) with the Information and Communication Unit (ICU) firmed up the rollout plan for standards promotion for 2022 - 2025 during the Year-End Assessment Workshop held on October 26-28, 2021 in San Juan City, La Union.

TSD, the Division responsible for the promotion of approved Philippine National Standards (PNS), encouraged by the success of its webinar series in 2021 identified other intervening activities to boost promotion of standards in the next four years. Since its repackaging, the traffic of the BAFS website improved immensely. The website initially tracked to have 557 downloads and 4,457 visitors from the December 2020 data. To this date, it recorded 14,913 download counts and 208,770 visitors. These numbers signal that the BAFS website has become one of the sources of information for the agri-fishery stakeholders.

BAFS maintains its ISO 9001:2015 certification

Brooklyn S. Flores • Katrina L. Maminta

For the past six years, BAFS continuously maintained its ISO 9001 certification from TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines, proving its ability to consistently provide services that meet customer requirements. In November 2021 and after undergoing a rigorous 10-hour external surveillance audit, BAFS Quality Management System (QMS) was found to satisfy the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

The recent surveillance audit was led by Engr. Adorable Aguila of TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines on November 26, 2021. Engr. Aguila examined the whole agency's processes from its scope to each division's procedures and services.

During the exit meeting, Engr. Aguila expressed her satisfaction at the Bureau's presentation of processes. In her findings, despite the three (3) opportunities for improvement, she concluded and recommended the issuance of the ISO 9001:2015 certificate. Furthermore, BAFS earned a positive assessment. Engr. Aguila lauded BAFS for the efforts toward continual improvement such as the establishment of Service Quality Innovation (SQI) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Provider accreditation.

These interventions will help BAFS to continuously improve its services consistent with its commitment and compliance with the Quality Management System. By all means, continual improvement is part of the BAFS culture! ■

“I am happy with how well you presented your processes that as a conclusion, issuance of certificate is recommended.”

Engr. Aguila, TÜV SÜD auditor



COVER STORY

BAFS' remarkable performance in e-Learning through webinars: Insights and strategies implemented

Jan Vincent DR. Tecson

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) from promoting adopted Philippine National Standards (PNS). In fact, the Bureau took advantage of the vast majority of the Filipino population stuck in their homes to boost its reach by shifting to digital platforms.



conducted in August entitled “Yun PALAYun!”, covered rice-related PNS and a special topic on heirloom rice varieties in support of the National Indigenous People’s Day.

For the months of May and September, fisheries standards were put on the spotlight. In May, the “Shrimply Prawnsome Practices” webinar discussed the food safety and quality standards in shrimp and prawns production. It was also the 1st webinar to feature agriculture and fisheries mechanization (AFMech) standards – PNS for Aquaculture Feeder - Specifications and Methods of Test (PNS/BAFS PABES 288:2019 and PNS/BAFS PABES 287:2019). Meanwhile the September webinar, “Aqualing-galing”, mainly featured Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) standards.

back webinar, “Poult-rific and Egg-cellent Practices”, which featured the standards to ensure safe and quality chicken and egg production, recorded the most participants with a total of 951 certificates issued.

This remarkable outcome in the BAFS webinar can be attributed as a result of monitoring activities and the strategies implemented.

Learning from data analytics: Facebook’s metrics as input for strategizing standards promotions

The popular social media platform, Facebook, not only served as the main digital platform to continuously connect the Bureau to its stakeholders, but its metrics were also helpful in tracking the performance of the webinars conducted.

“*Malaking bagay ang mga correct information sa panahon ngayon, essential talaga..*”
- Emmanuel Carrillo, OFW Graphic Designer

“*Overall engaging and satisfying. New knowledge always are fulfilling and fun!*”
- Arjay O. Afan, Research Assistant AMPED/CEAT

“*These webinars are helpful and timely as not all people can go to face to face (sic) set up of seminars. And also students can spend their idle time productively. Thank you very much. I hope that there will be more webinars to come.*”
- Ma. Andrea G. Francisco, student

This year, BAFS continued its learning and development (L&D) activities by delivering twelve (12) webinars in a span of 8 months with a total of 2,980 certificates issued to its participants.

The 2021 BAFS webinar series, which aimed at increasing the awareness on the food safety and quality standards, featured a total of 32 PNS. For each month, the Bureau focused each webinar on a particular commodity sector, i.e. crops, fisheries,

livestock and poultry, while adding topics relevant to a particular month’s celebration.

Its initial offering kicked off during the Filipino Food month in April highlighting the PNS for lowland vegetables found in a Pinakbet dish. The “I Bet Nutritious, I Bet Delicious, PINAKAbet na PINAKBET” webinar also espoused appreciation, preservation, and promotion of Filipino culinary tradition and indigenous practices. Meanwhile, another crops-related webinar

When combined, the five (5) webinars on livestock and poultry standards conducted in June and November are considered as the most viewed and participated BAFS webinars to date. An average of 342 participants issued with certificates per webinar day was recorded for the livestock and poultry standards. The triple treat “Safe and Quality Meats for Healthy Eats” webinar covered food safety, quality and AFMech standards for the meat value chain, from the farm up to the point of distribution, including the pre-slaughter, slaughter, and post-slaughter handling of meat. On the other hand, this year’s culminating back-to-

With more than 32,000 followers and counting, the BAFS Facebook Page is continuously gaining traction in widening its reach. However, the number of followers does not necessarily guarantee more engagements in posts and more viewers in live streams. This was evident in the webinars conducted in the first half of the year.

To monitor the performance of the webinars, the Bureau utilized the Facebook metrics for videos. Among the available data, the following were consistently monitored a week after each webinar:

BAFS 2021 Webinar Overall Performance

- 5,621 Average Audience Reach**
*Highest at 15,055
- 57.42% Average Participation Rate**
*Started with 19.04%
Highest at 106.45%
- 91% Average Audience Retention**
- 75.5% Average Overall Satisfaction Rating**

- Peak Live viewers or the highest number of concurrent viewers during live broadcast;
- Reach or the number of unique individual accounts who saw your Facebook content;
- Post Engagement or the total number of reactions and comments made your video received from original and shared posts; and
- Audience Absolute Retention – Shows point of the activity where viewers stop watching a video

Aside from these data, the participation rate and the participants' overall satisfaction rating were also monitored. The participation rate is calculated by dividing the number of certificates issued with the number of registrations recorded. Whereas, the overall satisfaction rating is obtained from the evaluation form filled out by the participants.

On the average, the 2021 BAFS webinars were able to perform well with 75.5% overall satisfaction rating, 91% audience retention and 57.42% participation rate.

Half way through 2021, the Bureau analyzed the average figures gathered and came up with several strategies to increase the said metrics. Among the strategies identified and implemented, the boosting

of the promotional posts of upcoming webinars proved to be the most effective way. Although the participation rate for the succeeding webinars was not far from the previous ones, a significant increase in the number of registrations and number of issued certificates was observed as seen in Figure 1.

Other strategies employed were requesting assistance from DA Agencies, DA Regional Field Offices, other government offices and private sector organizations in inviting participants, and promoting the webinars in their respective social media pages.

Lastly, comparing the average peak live viewers at 189 vis-à-vis the average number of participants issued with certificates per webinar at 248, only about 76% or roughly 8 out of 10 people stayed throughout the duration of the webinar. This may be due to varying factors such as those of the viewers (e.g. intermittent connection, fatigue, multitasking mode) and the webinar delivery (e.g. length of discussion).

Despite the low number of peak live viewers, the webinars were able to obtain an average reach of 5,621 individual FB accounts, and 1,525 average post engagements, which is an aggregate of the post reactions, comments and shares made by the viewers.

Webinar participants' overall feedback

As with the Bureau's commitment to the principles of ISO 9001:2015 by aiming for the continual improvement in all the processes, the 2021 BAFS webinars conducted were also subjected to post-activity evaluation.

The evaluation form, which was generated and distributed through Google Forms every after webinar, contains areas rated by the participants based on the following activity parameters: (a) objectives, (b) relevance, (c) project management team, (d) resource persons, (e) evaluation tools, (f) breaks, (g) facility, and (h) overall feedback. Participants who have successfully completed and submitted an evaluation form automatically received an electronic certificate. From the 12 webinars conducted, the average overall satisfaction rating obtained by the Bureau is 75.5%

This value was gathered from a total of 2,966 participants composed of students, government officers, academicians, local government unit (LGU) officers, and private sector representatives. Majority of the participants (34%) were students. The summary of participants' profiles can be seen in Figure 2.

In terms of the age distribution, mostly were Millennials (ages 18-34) at 81% followed by Gen X (ages 35-50) at 15% and Boomers (ages 51-69) at 4%. Whereas, for the participants' gender, there were more female participants at 59% .

Based on these data, it is evident that the majority of the participants are obviously from the tech-savvy Millennials, especially the student population, who are more attuned to online learning setup.

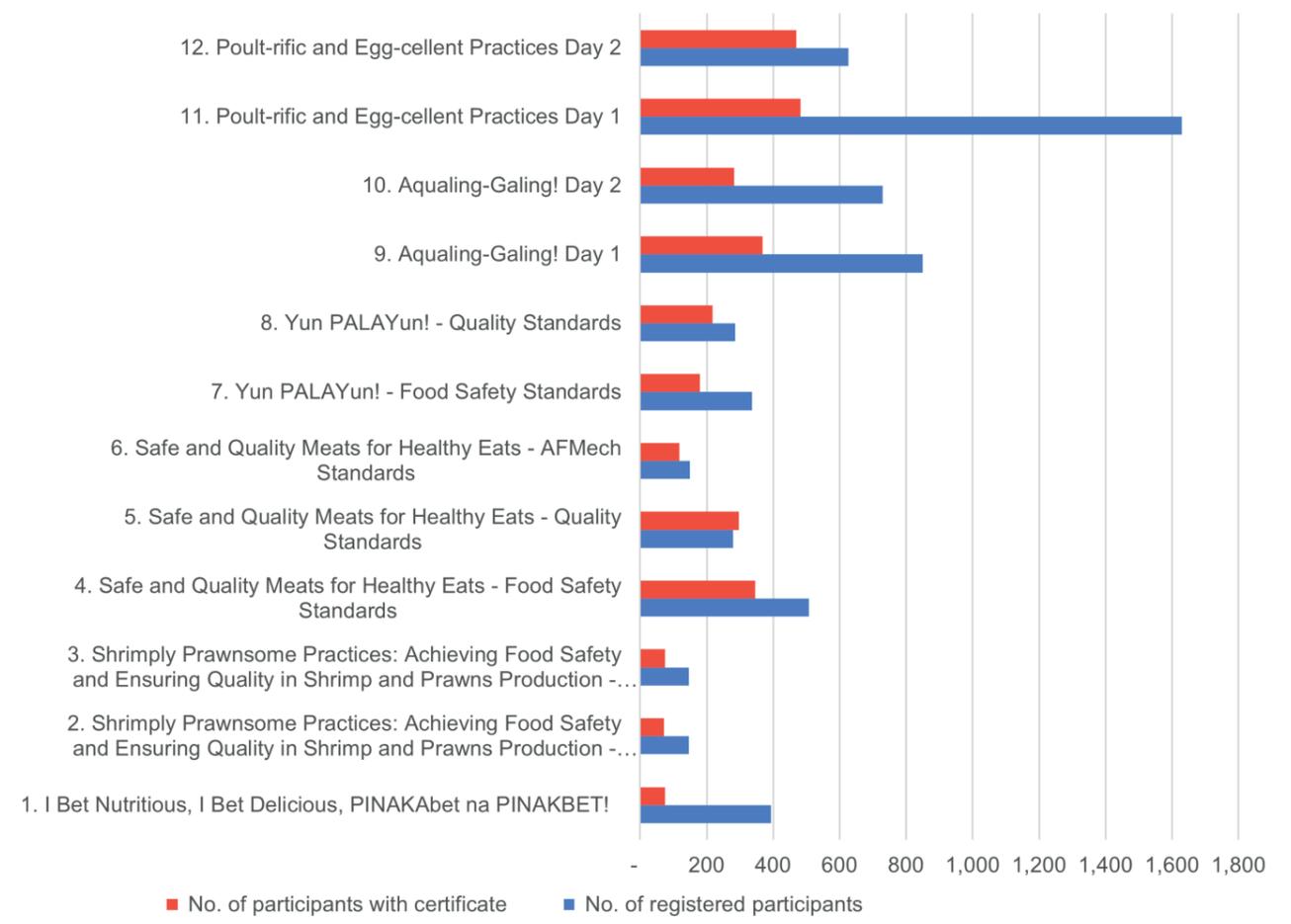


Figure 1. Number of registered participants and number of issued certificates in 2021 BAFS Webinars

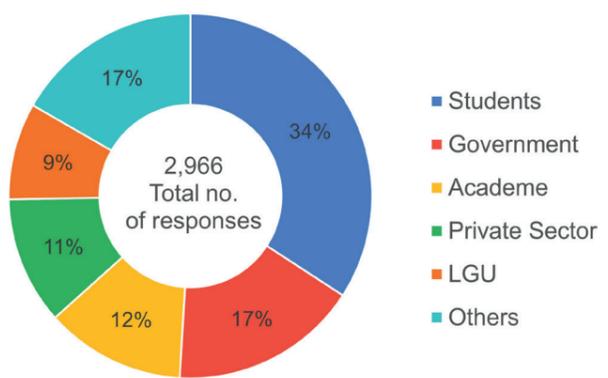


Figure 2. 2021 BAFS webinar participants' profile in 2021 BAFS Webinars

Looking ahead: Subscription, CPD units, and more!

As part of its strategies to widen its reach, the Bureau will be sending email alerts to the former webinar participants who consented to subscribe to BAFS. By signing up to the email alerts, interested parties will receive the most up-to-date information about BAFS' upcoming webinars and events, as well as early access to the bi-annual newsletters, knowledge products and other publications.

Attending the forthcoming BAFS webinar will also allow participants to earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit units for agri-professionals, which will be valid until October 2024. This resulted from BAFS' efforts to gain accreditation under the Professional Regulation Commission's (PRC) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program, which strives to improve the knowledge and abilities of Filipino professionals.

To sustain its L&D efforts in 2022, BAFS has prepared a series of webinars aimed at promoting adopted standards in different commodity sectors including halal and organic agriculture. Like hitting two birds with one stone, stakeholders and professionals who will participate in the BAFS webinars will continually update their skills and knowledge, while receiving CPD units as well.

Want to know more about BAFS' activities? Subscribe now to BAFS email alerts by registering in this link: bit.ly/BAFSAlerts.

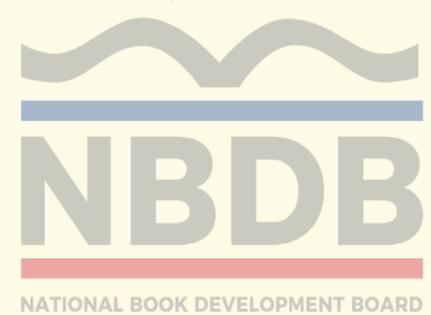
BAFS goes beyond the development of standard, now a book and e-book publisher

Chester G. Benavidez • Kristine P. Lasac

Demonstrating its commitment and dedication to being of better service to its stakeholders, BAFS is now a certified book and e-book publisher effective July 2021 until September 2022. This National Book and Development Board (NBDB) granted the certificate allowing BAFS to register its developed and published Philippine National Standards (PNS) and knowledge products (KP) to the National Library of the Philippines (NLP).

With this certification, BAFS can now assure stakeholders of appropriate and quality materials that promote agriculture and fisheries standards. In addition, the PNS and KPs are accessible and easily recognizable by the general public with their unique code, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN).

In 2021, the Bureau has successfully registered a total of 182 publications consisting of 167 approved PNS, 8 KPs including illustrative guides, explanatory manuals, comics, and posters, BAFS Manual of Operations, and the Organic Bio-Control Agents (OBCA) Manual which are all uploaded in the BAFS website. This opportunity will surely strengthen the Bureau's goal to increase PNS awareness and encourage its adoption.



BAFS website, a fount of information

Rosemarie V. Calibo

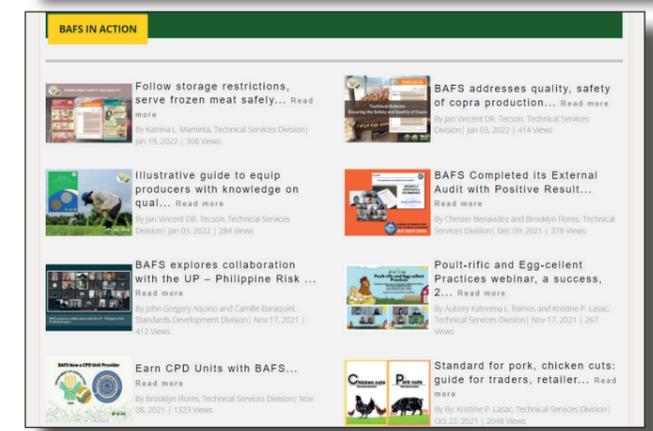
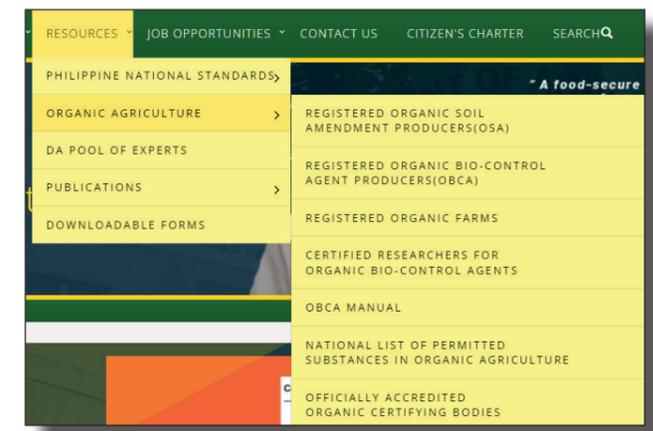
Summing up the year 2021 in its entirety can well be described as the year of diverse realization; be it personal or career-wise. For the BAFS, it was never a smooth-sailing year, but a roller-coaster experience of endless challenges; swift turn-over of top managers, reassignments, amendment of mother laws which resulted to remodeling of processes and procedures, and the persistent Covid-19 transmissions dictating unpredictable fluctuating alert levels, so on and so forth.

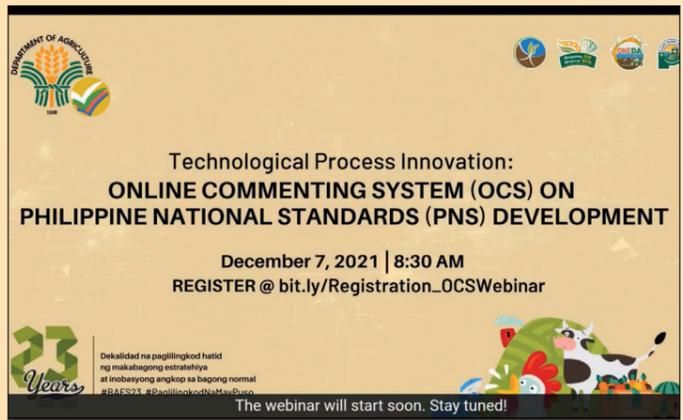
Despite all the odds and turn of events, the BAFS remained steadfast and committed in extending continuous quality 'service with a heart' to its stakeholders. Never say die! BAFS remained on top and in control of its goals and aspirations by making its presence felt, and visible in its website and Facebook page.

Information sourcing was never scarce, as the BAFS website provided ample data that caters to most of its stakeholders' thirst for round-the-clock intellectual outputs. For instance, the "resources" tab in the website will lead you to information such as the free copies of Philippine National Standards, various listings related to organic agriculture, news releases, and other publications namely illustrative guides, explanatory manuals, comics, posters and technical bulletins.

Not to mention, Bayambang, Pangasinan Mayor Cesar T. Quiambao found the urge to link their very own website with that of the BAFS, considering such a move as paramount, "to enrich the experience of our clients or users, in modernizing agriculture to augment the lives of our farmers," he stressed.

For 2021 alone, the linking of BAFS website with its FB page resulted in 161,973 website views and 11,479 website information downloads, specifically for the Philippine National Standards (PNS) alone. Continuous enhancement of the web is done to further increase and widen its demographic reach, providing that opportunity to make a consistent impression of legitimacy and credibility for its human capital and the organization.





From top left: (1) Webinar on the Online Commenting System (OCS) on Philippine National Standards (PNS) development, (2) BAFS Online TV focusing on organic agriculture, and (3) Utakan sa BAFS Year 3 quiz show



Returning BAFS Director, Dr. Vivencio R. Mamaril, gives welcome remarks and expresses his hopes for "more fruitful years" for the Bureau



23 years of dedicated service to farmers and fisherfolk

Katrina Maminta • Kristel Alarice Aborido

Through the years, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) molded its organization into a science-led agency, with its employees pursuing science-based strategies in performing its functions.

"Your work towards a culture of professionalism that nurtures stakeholders as well, to become better versions of themselves, is one of the reasons you keep rising to the top," the Secretary added.

In 2021, the Bureau celebrated its 23 years of public service with the theme "Dekalidad na Serbisyong hatid ng Makabagong Estratehiya at Inobasyong Angkop sa bagong Normal" which showcased not only the accomplishments of the Bureau but also recognized its employees' dedication as public servants and the continued support of the stakeholders. After all, the Bureau's milestone was made possible through the work and collaboration of its employees and stakeholders.

— “ —
Isa pong malaking karangalan na ang CropLife Philippines ay naging kabahagi ninyo noong mga nakaraang taon sa mahahalagang gawain tulad ng pagrebisa ng Philippine National Standards MRLs of Pesticides sa ilang piling priority crops tulad ng rice, banana, pineapple at mango.
 - Edilberto De Luna
 Director, CropLife Philippines

During the opening program, DA Secretary William Dar said, "I am proud of the milestones you have been through and I see how your institution has strived and triumphed for the past 23 years. You have continued to serve the people amid the COVID-19 pandemic, in a manner which is very timely; ang paglilingkod na may puso."

— ” —
 The 3-day anniversary celebration include BAFS Online TV (talkshow on organic agriculture), Online Commenting System Webinar as part of the standard development process, Utakan sa BAFS: Year 3 (virtual quiz contest about BAFS and standards), and of course, the Taunang Parangal to give recognition to BAFS employees. The activities were all live-streamed on the BAFS Facebook page at facebook.com/da.bafs. ■



Enhancing transparency and openness: PNS Online Commenting System (OCS) launched

Joshua P. Abel

BAFS has taken advantage of the technology to reach more stakeholders, and make the standard development process more transparent through the Philippine National Standard (PNS) Online Commenting System (OCS). BAFS OCS is an online platform that allows stakeholders to comment or give suggestions on draft standards.

In March 2021, the BAFS OCS was officially launched during the Technical Working Group (TWG) Orientation to adapt to the new normal as the pandemic limits the physical meeting and for broader participation of the stakeholders in the development of PNS.

The BAFS OCS was developed as a technological process innovation to provide a new venue for stakeholders to engage in the establishment of standards. It is an online platform designed to collect opinions from key stakeholders for the draft PNS and to allow BAFS Managers to efficiently consolidate and collect data for analysis.

The platform offers interfaces that allow users to provide feedback on a working draft PNS, browse a list of standards that are presently being created, and track whether or not their comments have been accepted.

The development of standards is a continual process where relevant stakeholders are actively engaged in the formulation, revision, amendment, or adoption of standards to align with the current market situation and international commitments. ■

Online Commenting System (OCS)

A platform for BAFS stakeholders to access and provide comments on the draft Philippine National Standards, and for BAFS Managers to efficiently consolidate comments and collect data for analysis.

Functions



View and access list of Draft PNS



Comment of PNS Drafts



Check Status of Comments

1 Register

Go to

<http://bafs.da.gov.ph/ocs/system/>

Click

'Register Now'

2 Fill up the Registration Form

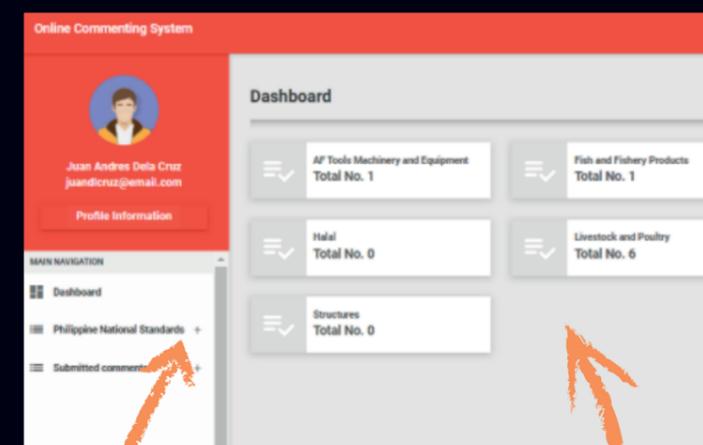
Fill up all the information, answer the captcha, and click

REGISTER

3 Select the PNS Category

Select the PNS categories in the dashboard

OCS Homepage



Taskbar

Breakdown of draft PNS per category

POSTER

Veterinary Drug Residues in Food: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

Content & layout by: Brooklyn S. Flores

Ever wondered how we keep animal food products safe even with the use of veterinary drugs? Do you know what are the banned veterinary drugs in the Philippines?

Veterinary drugs can be used to prevent or cure disease in food-producing animals. However, these chemicals may leave residues in the food produced from treated animals. In such case, it must be ensured that the residue levels in animal food products should not cause harm to consumers.

In this poster, we have featured the PNS/BAFS 48:2016 Veterinary drug residues in food: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) covering the veterinary drug residue limits in food, including a list of banned veterinary drugs and their corresponding regulations.

To download the full poster, scan the QR code below. ■



- It is the maximum concentration of residue resulting from the use of a veterinary drug (expressed in mg/kg).¹
- It is based on the type and amount of residue considered to be without any toxicological hazard for human health as expressed by the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI), or on the basis of a temporary ADI that utilizes an additional safety factor.¹
- It also takes into account other relevant public health risks as well as food technological aspects.¹

Examples of veterinary drug residue limits in food²

CYFLUTHRIN		NICARBAZIN		CARAZOLOL	
<small>An insecticide applied topically or as spray, dust, and fog for the protection of cattle from flies and lice infestation.³</small>		<small>An anticoccidial used in starter rations for broiler chickens as an aid in the prevention of faecal and intestinal coccidiosis.⁴</small>		<small>A beta adrenoceptor-blocking agent used primarily in pigs to prevent sudden death due to stress during transport.⁵</small>	
Tissue	MRL (ug/kg)	Tissue	MRL (ug/kg)	Tissue	MRL (ug/kg)
Muscle	20	Muscle	200	Muscle	5
Liver	20	Liver	200	Liver	25
Kidney	20	Kidney	200	Kidney	25
Fat	200	Fat/Skin	200	Fat/Skin	5
Milk	40 ug/l				

CLENBUTEROL		EMAMECTIN BENZOATE		MONEPANTEL	
<small>A beta-2 agonist used for the treatment of respiratory disease in horses and cattle.⁶</small>		<small>An avermectin derivative used in the treatment of sea lice infestations in Salmonidae and other finfish (e.g. salmon, trout) in several countries.⁷</small>		<small>An anti-helminthic administered as an oral drench to control gastrointestinal nematodes (roundworms) in sheep.⁷</small>	
Tissue	MRL (ug/kg)	Tissue	MRL (ug/kg)	Tissue	MRL (ug/kg)
Muscle	0.2	Muscle	100	Muscle	500
Liver	0.6	Muscle	100	Liver	7000
Kidney	0.6	Fillet	100	Kidney	1700
Fat	0.2			Fat/Skin	13000

Banned Veterinary Drugs¹

DRUG*	REGULATIONS
Malachite Green <small>antifungal & antiprotozoal agent</small>	BFAR-AC No. 256 s. 2015 <small>Declaring malachite green and gentian violet as health hazards and prohibiting their use in food fish production and trade.</small>
Chloramphenicol <small>antimicrobial agent</small>	Department of Agriculture AO No. 60 Series of 1990 Department of Health AO No. 4-A Series 2000 <small>Declaring a ban on the use of chloramphenicol in food producing animals.</small>
Furazolidone <small>antimicrobial agent</small>	Joint Administrative Order No. 2 Series of 2000 (DA and DOH) <small>Declaring a ban/phase-out of the use of nitrofurans in food-producing animals.</small>
Carbadox <small>growth promoter and antimicrobial agent</small>	Department of Agriculture AO No. 1 Series of 2000 Department of Health AO No. 4-A, Series 2000 <small>Ban and withdrawal of Olaquinox and Carbadox from the market.</small>
Olaquinox <small>antibacterial agent</small>	

* See full list ²

Recommended Risk Management Measures for Residues of Veterinary Drugs²

*In view of the JECFA conclusions on the available scientific information, there are **no safe level residues of banned veterinary drugs** or their metabolites in food that represent an acceptable risk to consumers. For this reason, competent authorities should **prevent residues of banned veterinary drugs** in food. This can be accomplished by **not using banned veterinary drugs** in food producing animals.*

SCAN THIS TO DOWNLOAD



Aqualing-galing!

Issue #1 : Site Selection

1

Mang Rico! Nais ko pang matuto sa tamang pangisdaan ng bangus at tilapia upang paglaki ko ay maging katulad po ninyo akal! Maaari nyo po ba akong matulungan?

Oo naman Tonya. Halika na at matutol!

2

Sa pagtatayo ng isang pangisdaan dapat nating isaalang-alang ang mga sumusunod na bagay:

Una, dapat tayong makakuha ng katibayan na ang lugar na pagtatayuan natin ay hindi makasisira sa kapaligiran. Meron dapat tayong 'environmental impact assessment (EIA) mula sa LGU/DENR at business permit.

3

Ikalawa, dapat meron din tayong vicinity and farm map para malaman natin kung anu-anong kalapit na industriya o mga pasilidad na maaring maka-apekto sa ating pangisdaan.



4

Ikatlo, upang maiwasan ang 'cross contamination' at mapanatili ang seguridad ng pangisdaan, ang mga pasilidad ay may espasyo o may sapat na layo sa isa't isa o tinatawag na 'buffer zone'.

Salamat Mang Rico. Aqua-ling galing!

COMICS

Aqualing-galing!

Story by: Brooklyn S. Flores
Illustration & layout by: Alma V. Reyes

Halina't samahan natin sila Tonyo at Rico sa Komik Serye tungkol sa:

- PNS Code of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) for Milkfish and Tilapia (PNS/BAFS 196:2016);
- Milkfish Fresh chilled and Fresh Frozen (PNS/BAFS 66:2020); and
- Fish and Fishery Products - Tilapia - Live, Fresh-chilled and fresh frozen (PNS/BAFS 67:2020).

Para mabasa ang lahat ng isyu ng 'Aqualing-galing!' mangyaring bisitahin ang aming website sa www.bafs.da.gov.ph o kaya naman sa aming official Facebook page sa www.facebook.com/da.bafs. Maaari din i-scan ang katabing QR code para mas mabilis na madownload ito. ■

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22 HULYO-DISYEMBRE 2021 | ISYU 4

23 HULYO-DISYEMBRE 2021 | ISYU 4



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

*“..ensuring consumer’s safety and product quality,
and contributing to environmental protection,
worker’s welfare, and enhanced market access.”*