



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards

BAFS ANNUAL REPORT 2021



About the cover



A typical, new normal, work-from-home set-up has become one of the solutions adopted by the Philippine government to curb the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The photo best describes 'resilience' in the midst of uncertainties because it implies hope, faith, and possibilities; no room for work disruptions despite repeated lockdowns. It is that quality that allows us to overcome challenges, obstacles, hardship, and adversity, instead of being defeated by them. It allows us not only to bounce back but also to bounce forward for the coming years.

"DEKALIDAD NA SERBISYONG HATID NG MAKABAGONG ESTRATEHIYA AT INOBASYONG ANGKOP SA BAGONG NORMAL"

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This Annual Report is a publication of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), Department of Agriculture (DA). This type of report is published yearly.

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ISSN 2782-926X (Print)
ISSN 2719-1818 (PDF)

March 2022
www.bafs.da.gov.ph

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

It has been thought that human indeed welcomes anything that is committed with achievement. This, perhaps, is because success has always been the aspiration of man. With the aim to succeed, man learns, tends to adhere, and makes more out of the good things that he receives every day. An individual or an institution usually embraces the more beneficial results of his labor and feels good for great accomplishment.

This 2021 Annual Report contains a diverse collection of science-based data that pacify the actualization of every objective and target for the year. As you navigate by reading through, you will be offered results-based information that advocates change to adapt to these systemic issues that we continue to encounter. Smart move!

If there can be a positive take on these seemingly insurmountable challenges and barriers we are still experiencing even as we loosen restrictions, it is witnessing the strength, determination and intentionality of the BAFS leadership and staff, as they commit to provide support and true service 'with a heart'.

Congratulations to BAFS for coming up with this comprehensive report, and may you continue to embody your commitment to your core values - to serve with respect, integrity, compassion and growth. With our strengthened partnership as OneDA Family towards a food secure and resilient Philippines with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk! Padayon!

William D. Dar, Ph.D.
DA Secretary



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

With eagerness and pride, I would like to share the Bureau's Annual Performance Report for FY 2021.

Last year has been an opportunity to accomplish tasks that will serve our agri-fishery sector incessantly. It is indeed a matter of great humility to present to you our Philippine National Standards (PNS) developed promotional knowledge products, efforts to improve organic agriculture, and the expanded strategy to strengthen the development of science-based standards.

We are united with the idea that collectively, we serve better while simultaneously balancing the challenges brought by COVID-19. We, at BAFS, will continue to do our best, roll up our sleeves and offer you a quality service. May you always be with us while achieving new heights in the coming days.

Please have a look at what we were up to last year.

Enjoy reading!

Vivencio R. Mamaril, Ph.D.
Director IV

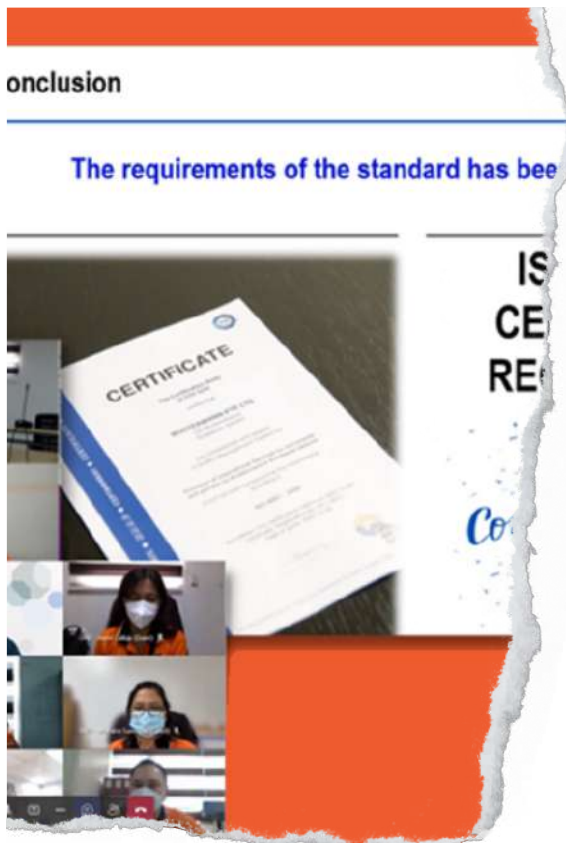


INTRODUCTION

To promote transparency between the BAFS and its stakeholders, there must be a communication tool to link both.

Aside from its website, the annual report positions the Bureau to a broad audience, either in print or online, bringing together depth and scale in one place as a point-in-time record of accomplishments, milestones, and goals. It is a brand-building and reputation-enhancing tool. And it drives traffic to the BAFS website as well.

This Annual Report provides information on the BAFS' mission and history (targets) and summarizes its achievements (performance) in the past year. While financial achievements are included, other achievements are noted, such as research advances, market share gains from social media or honors awarded to its employees.



This Annual Report creates a deeper understanding of what the BAFS does, why it does it, and how well things are done. It keeps the employees, readers, and stakeholders engaged, builds trust, and sets the Bureau apart – clarifying and explaining why people should invest, work at or with the Bureau, and believe in the people behind it.

Annual reporting is a prime opportunity to reach diverse audiences – be it through quad media – taking advantage of such opportunities tied to the valuable assets and outcomes that the BAFS is generously willing to share.



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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STANDARDS

"...ensure consumer safety and promote competitiveness of Philippines agriculture and fishery products."

MANDATE

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) was created through the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (RA 8435) to develop food safety standards for primary and post-harvest foods, standards for AF machinery, and Halal primary and post-harvest foods, respectively. Its standards development function was further strengthened by the Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization Law of 2013 (RA 10601), Food Safety Act of 2013 (RA 10611), and the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016 (RA 10817), which mandated the Bureau to develop standards on agri-fisheries machinery and infrastructures, food safety for agri-fishery commodities, and primary and post-harvest Halal products, respectively.

By virtue of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (RA 10068), as amended by RA 11511, the Bureau, in addition to its standards development function, is mandated to enforce technical regulations on the registration of integrated organic farms, organic input producers, and products (organic soil amendments and organic biocontrol agents), and accreditation of third-party organic certifying bodies (OCBs) and participatory guarantee system (PGS) groups. Other BAFS activities include certification and inspection of core PGS, and monitoring and post-market surveillance of registered organic producers, farms, and inputs to ensure enforcement of the labeling requirements of the law.

VISION

By 2025, the BAFS envisions to be the trusted agency for the development of agricultural and fishery standards within ASEAN, and in the enforcement of the organic agriculture regulations.

MISSION

To develop and implement standards and regulations that are science-based, globally harmonized and consistent with international commitments.

QUALITY POLICY

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) commits to develop and implement standards that will ensure food safety and quality, workers' safety and welfare, environmental management, and global competitiveness of Philippine agriculture and fishery products and machinery and infrastructures.

We commit to good governance, excellence, professionalism, and continual improvement of the quality management system.

2021 Physical and Financial Performance

In implementing the Bureau’s FY 2021 projects, programs, and activities, BAFS received an allotment of Php 25,432,655.75 for its Personnel Services (PS) to cover all salaries and wages of its different operating units and Php 43,523,300.84 for its Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE). Figure 1 shows the BAFS 2021 budget by expense class.

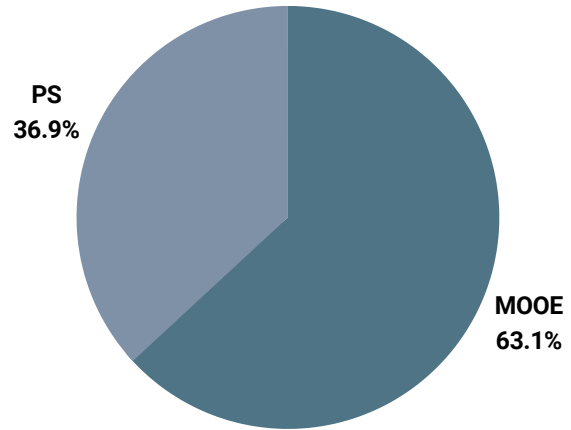


Figure 1. BAFS 2021 budget by expense class

The Bureau’s MOOE budget, as shown in Figure 2, was sourced from its allocation under General Administration and Support Services (GASS) with the amount of Php 1,806,500.00, Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Services (AFRS) at Php 38,676,000.00 for FY 2021. The amount of Php3,040,800.84 was sourced from the continuing funds of FY 2020.

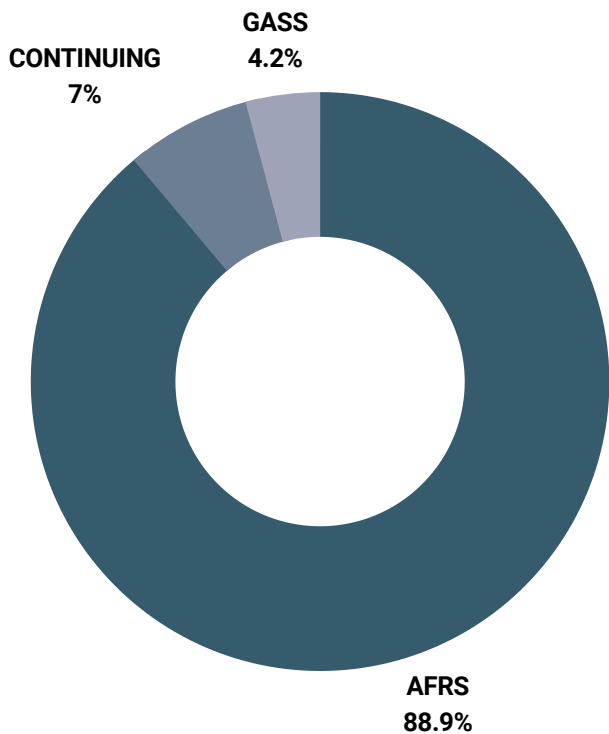


Figure 2. BAFS FY 2021 MOOE fund source

With the allotted budget, the Bureau accomplished the following:

- Developed 32 Philippine National Standards (PNS);
- Issued 88 Regulatory documents relevant to organic agriculture (OA) (i.e. permits, certificates, and registration);
- Monitored and inspected 37 agricultural facilities and products relative to their compliance with OA regulations.

Administrative Support Services

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau still attained the following physical targets for CY 2021. Contributory to these achievements were the use of online platforms and the adjustments made to streamline its procedures as it adopts the new normal. The BAFS target vis-a-vis performance for 2021 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. BAFS Target vis-a-vis Performance

Program / Sub-Program / Performance Indicator	2021 Accomplishment		
	Target	Performance	Percent
Agriculture and Fishery Regulatory Services			
A. Regulatory Document Issued			
• Certificates Issued	5	1	20%
• Permits Issued	20	38	190%
• Registration Issued	40	49	123%
B. Agriculture Facilities Monitored and/or Inspected with Report Issued	11	17	155%
C. Agriculture Products Monitored and/or Inspected with Report Issued	14	20	143%
D. Established Product Standards	20	32	160%

With the new normal measures in place, the Bureau only spent 79.8% of its total budget for FY 2021. The savings incurred by the Bureau were expenses allotted for travel, meetings, validation activities, and public consultations.

The breakdown of utilization per funding source is in Table 2.

Table 2. BAFS rate of utilization per expense class and funding source for 2021

Funding source	Expense class	Allotment	Obligation	Balance	% Utilized
Current					
GASS	PS	4,308,864.00	4,308,864.00	0.00	100%
	MOOE	1,806,500.00	1,227,814.75	578,685.25	67.97%
AFPS	PS	21,123,791.75	21,123,791.75	0.00	100%
	MOOE	38,676,000.00	25,407,948.98	13,268,051.02	65.69%
Continuing					
AFPS	MOOE	3,040,800.84	2,941,422.45	99,378.39	96.73%
TOTAL ALLOCATION		68,955,956.59	55,009,841.93	13,946,114.66	79.77%

Standards Development Division

Development of Philippine National Standards

For FY 2021, the SDD developed 32 PNS related to crops (food and non-food), livestock and poultry, fish and fishery products, organic agriculture, Halal, and agriculture and fishery (AF) machinery and infrastructures. This is equivalent to 160% of the total target of 20 PNS for FY 2021. Figure 3 shows the breakdown of the PNS developed per category.

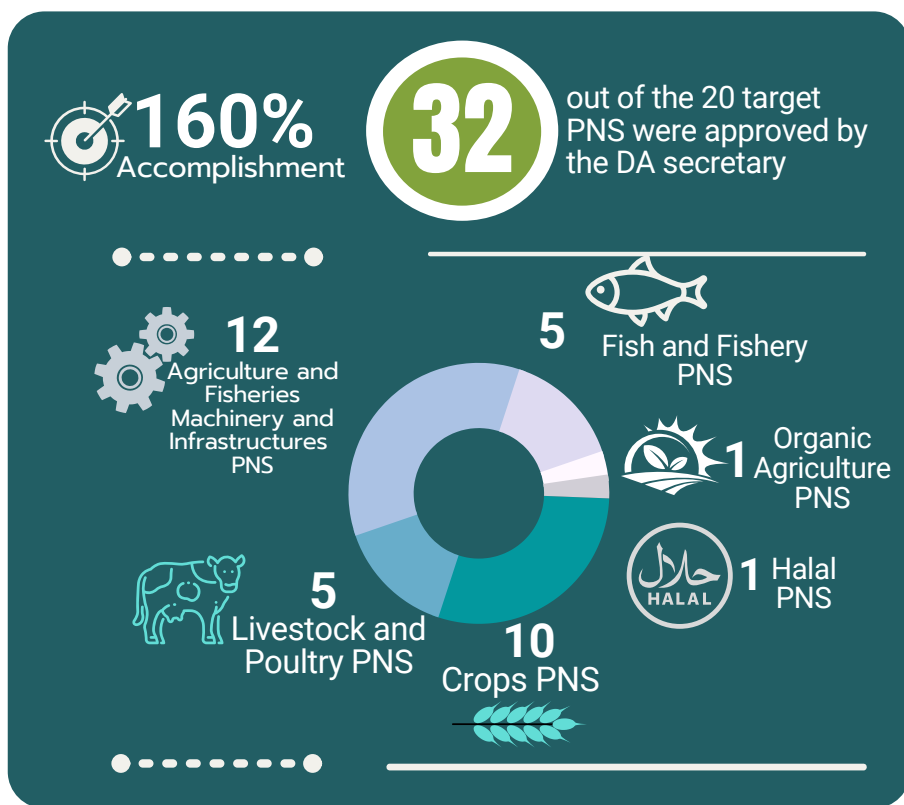


Figure 3. PNS developed in FY 2021, per category

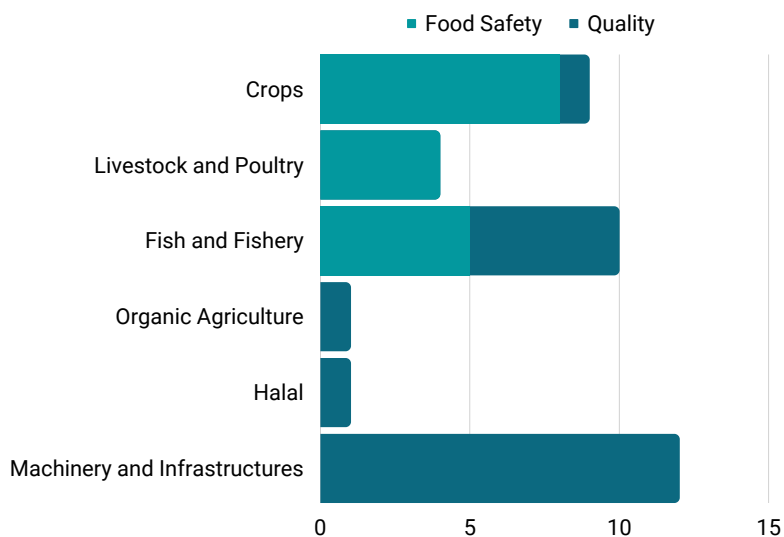


Figure 4. PNS developed in FY 2021, per category (food safety and quality)

The majority of the PNS developed were related to AF machinery and infrastructures (12), followed by crops (9) and fish and fishery products (5). Out of the total 32 PNS, 17 mainly address food safety and 15 are on quality. Figure 4 summarizes the PNS developed on food safety and quality per category.

Executive Summary

Impact

Description	Performance Indicator	Target	Actual	% Accomplishment
Development of PNS for agriculture and fisheries products and machinery and infrastructures	At least 50% of annual PNS target is food safety-related	10	19	160%
Harmonization of PNS with regional and international standards	At least 80% of total PNS harmonized/ aligned with ASEAN standards by 2025	65%	85%	131%
Harmonization of PNS with regional and international standards	At least 80% of relevant and applicable Codex standards adopted as PNS by 2025	40%	60%	150%

Outcomes

Description	Performance Indicator	Target	Actual	% Accomplishment
Increased conformance with PNS on food safety and quality	At least 5 food safety issues and 5 quality issues related to agriculture and fishery products are addressed annually	10	32	320%
Increased compliance of Philippine agriculture and fishery products with international requirements	At least 80% of PNS are harmonized/ aligned with relevant regional and international standards by 2025	65%	85%	112%

Outputs

Description	Performance Indicator	Target	Actual	% Accomplishment
Philippine National Standards (PNS) for agriculture and fishery products and AF machinery and infrastructures	At least 20 approved PNS annually	20	32	160%
PNS aligned with regional and international standards	At least 10 harmonization/alignment reports submitted annually	10	10	100%

Harmonization of PNS with Regional and International Standards

As of 2021, 60% of the total 227 food-related PNS developed since 2003 are aligned with applicable Codex standards. The alignment per category (% of total) is shown in Figure 5. The current seven PNS related to organic agriculture are all aligned with applicable Codex standards. This was followed by PNS that cut across commodities (general standards) at 75% (6 out of 8 applicable existing Codex standards), crops at 65% (100 out of 154), and livestock and poultry at 50% (17 out of 34).

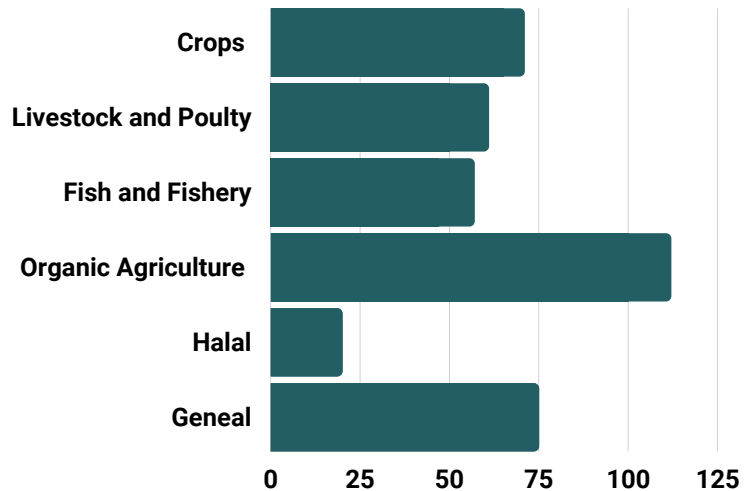


Figure 5. PNS developed in FY 2021, per category (food safety and quality)

In terms of ASEAN regional standards for crops (28 ASEAN standards) and ASEAN general standards (5 ASEAN standards), 28 out of the total 33 (85%) have existing equivalent PNS. Majority of crops covers horticulture produce traded within ASEAN.

SDD Quality Management System (QMS)

To further improve the QMS for standards development, the SDD developed and revised the following 11 Quality Procedure (QP) forms and procedures:

1. Pre-Assessment Form
2. Project Document
3. Prioritization Criteria Scoresheets
4. List of Pre-Assessed Proposals for Standards Development
5. Project Workplan
6. Consolidated Comment Template
7. Field Data Gathering Report
8. Adequacy Review Checklist
9. Risk Management Plan
10. Harmonization Procedure and Criteria
11. Online Commenting System – User's Manual

Similarly, the SDD developed and revised nine forms/templates for the adoption of BAFS:

1. Activity Feedback Form
2. Evaluating Effectiveness of L&D Activities
3. Summary of Major Agreements for Meeting Form
4. Summary of Major Inputs and Recommendations for Stakeholder Consultations Form
5. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Form
6. Activity Report Form
7. Minutes of Meeting Form
8. Coaching and Mentoring Form
9. Reaction and Learning Level Effectiveness Report Form

Organic Agriculture Division

Development of Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the RA 10068 (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010) as amended by RA 11511, and related technical regulations

With the amendment of the RA 10068 through the RA 11511, BAFS, as tasked by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), facilitated the development of the IRR of the amended law. The final draft was endorsed to the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) on March 29, 2021, and was approved on December 03, 2021.

Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10068 as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, otherwise known as "Amendment to Organic Agriculture Act of 2010"



DRAFT IRR ENDORSED TO NOAP ON MARCH 29, 2021

Consequent to the approval of the IRR, the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) approved the following technical regulations on October 21, 2021:

2 **TECHNICAL REGULATIONS APPROVED**

1. Guidelines for the Operation of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Groups as Organic Certifying Bodies (OCB)
2. Guidelines for the Accreditation of Core Participatory Guarantee System Groups and its Operation as Organic Certifying Bodies

In addition to these NOAB-approved technical regulations, the Bureau commenced the development of the following technical regulations:

1. Unified Set of Rules and Regulations for the Registration of Organic Producers, Produce and Inputs
2. Guidelines for Handling Complaints and Appeals relevant to the Organic Agriculture Regulations of BAFS
3. Guidelines for Market Surveillance of Agricultural Products with Organic Claim

Under the amended law, the Organic Agriculture Division was restructured to ensure the effective operationalization of the Bureau's new and modified regulatory mandates.

Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies

The BAFS, through the Organic Agriculture Accreditation Section (OAAS), grants official accreditation to an organic certifying body (OCB). The officially accredited OCB shall perform certification and inspection of organic management systems per applicable Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture and relevant regulations.

As of 2021, the BAFS has two (2) officially accredited third-party OCB, namely: OCCP-Inspection and Certification Services, Inc. (ICSI) and Control Union Philippines, Inc. (CUPI) which operates nationwide.

Each officially accredited third-party OCB has its own set of approved scopes. The CUPI has three approved scopes: crop production, processing, and soil amendments. Meanwhile, the OCCP-ICSI has seven approved scopes, namely: crop production, animal production, processing, inputs, special products, aquaculture, and recognition of non-PNS organic certificates.

Registration of Organic Producers, Produce, and Inputs

The BAFS, through the Organic Agriculture Registration Section (OARS), registers integrated organic farms and organic inputs such as organic soil amendments (OSA) and organic bio-control agents (OBCA).

In 2021, the OARS targeted 60 regulatory documents: 20 permits (Import Permit and Expert Permit) and 40 certificates (Certificate of Registration and Certificate of Product Registration) as part of the BAFS Major Final Outputs (MFO). Overall, the OARS issued 87 regulatory documents (38 permits and 49 certificates), or 145% accomplishment. In addition to the 87 regulatory documents submitted as accomplishments, 15 Experimental Use Permits (EUP) for OBCA were also issued. The OARS-issued regulatory documents in 2021 are summarized in Figure 6.

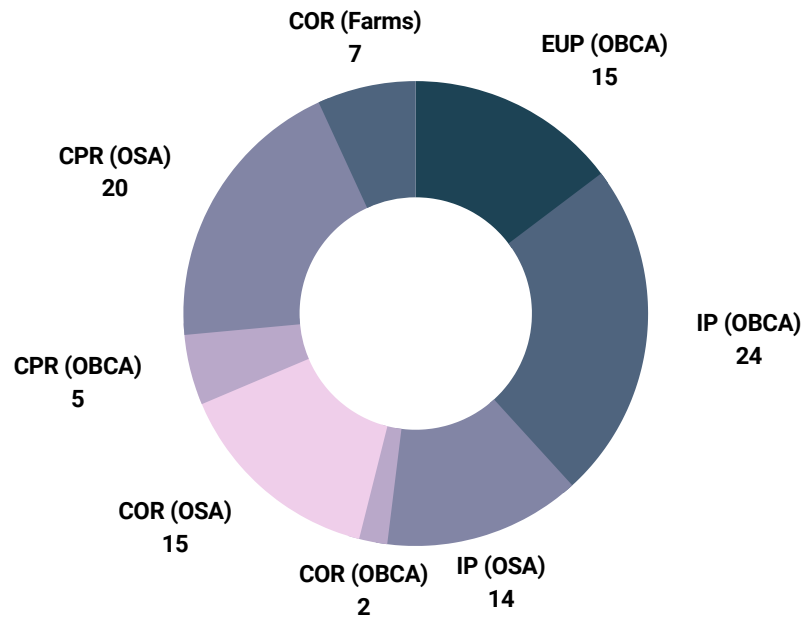


Figure 6. OARS-issued regulatory documents in 2021

Monitoring of Organic Agriculture Facilities and Products

The BAFS, through the Organic Agriculture Monitoring and Labeling Enforcement Section (OAMLES), monitors the continued compliance of registered integrated organic farms and organic inputs such as organic soil amendments (OSA) and organic bio-control agents (OBCA) with the BAFS regulatory requirements.

In 2021, the OAMLES targeted 11 agricultural facilities and 14 organic products to be monitored as part of the BAFS MFO. As shown in Figure 7, the OAMLES monitored 17 agricultural facilities (3 production and 14 storage areas) and 20 organic products (12 OSA and 8 OBCA). The OAMLES achieved 155% and 143% accomplishment for facilities and products, respectively.

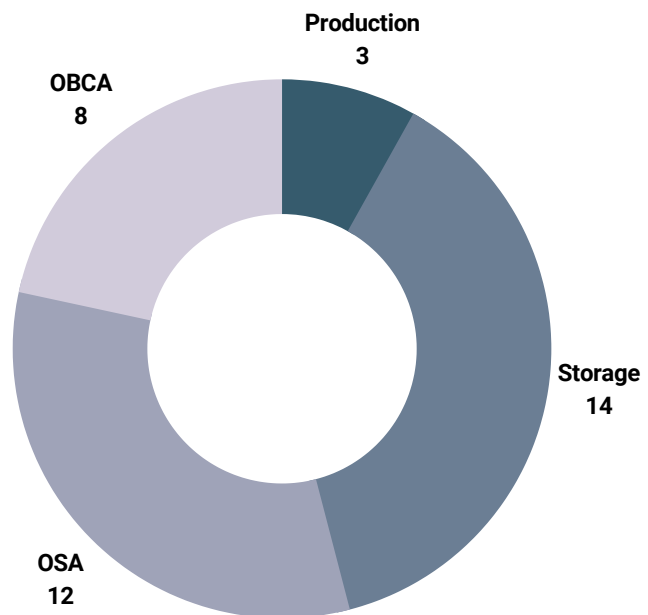


Figure 7. Monitored organic agriculture facilities and products in 2021

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE DIVISION

2021

Accomplishments

JOINT DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 01, S. 2021

Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10068 as amended by Republic Act No. 11511, otherwise known as "Amendment to Organic Agriculture Act of 2010"



DRAFT IRR ENDORSED TO NOAP ON MARCH 29, 2021

2

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS APPROVED BY NOAB

2 Organic Certifying Bodies

- OCCP - Inspection and Certification Services, Inc.
- CUPI - Control Union Philippines, Inc.

37 Facilities & Products Monitored

- 3 - Production Facilities; 14 - Storage Facilities
- 12 - Organic Soil Amendments;
- 8 - Organic Biocontrol Agents

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Registration Documents

- Experimental Use Permit (EUP)
- Import Permit (IP)
- Certificate of Registration (COR)
- Certificate of Product Registration (CPR)

24 IP (OBCA)

15 EUP (OBCA)

14 IP (OSA)

5 CPR (OBCA)

20 CPR (OSA)

15 COR (OSA)

7 COR (FARM)

2 COR (OBCA)

Technical Services Division

ISO Certification

For the past six years, BAFS has continuously maintained its ISO 9001 certification from TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines, proving its ability to consistently provide services that meet customer requirements.

On November 26, 2021, the Bureau successfully passed the surveillance audit and maintained its certification attesting conformance to ISO 9001:2015 requirements. There were three opportunities for improvement during the surveillance audit, one positive/commendable finding and zero non-conformities.

The following are the updated scope of BAFS QMS for certification:

1. Development of Philippine National Standards (PNS) for Agriculture and Fishery;
2. Provision of Official Accreditation to Organic Agriculture 3rd party Certification Bodies;
3. Registration of Organic Food and Organic Input Producers;
4. Monitoring of Registered Organic Operators; and
5. Promotion of Philippine National Standards through the conduct of webinars.

Adoption of PNS as Basis of Technical Regulations of the DA Regulatory Agencies

As part of BAFS's after-standards development process, the TSD monitored the adoption of standards through a two-part data-gathering survey.

Out of 317 PNS developed as of November 2021, 53 PNS, or 17%, were adopted as the basis for developing technical regulations based on the response received. Among the 53 adopted PNS, 40 were on food safety, while 13 were on quality-related standards, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of adopted PNS based on category (food safety or quality)

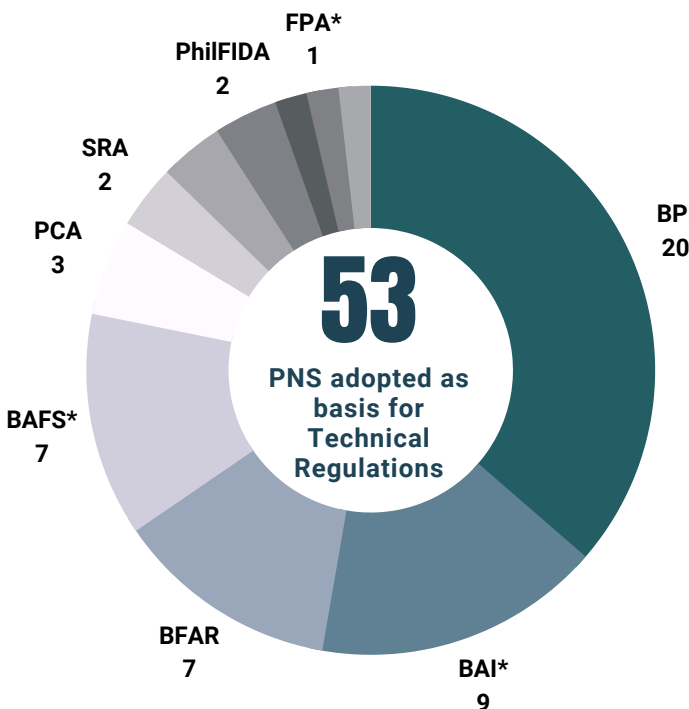
Category	Number of PNS developed by BAFS	Number of PNS Adopted as basis for Technical Regulations	% Adoption
Food Safety	139	40	29%
Quality	178	13	7%
Total	317	53	17%

The monitoring result also showed that of the 53 PNS, the PNS related to crops had the highest number of adopted standards, followed by livestock and poultry, fish and fishery products, and organic agriculture standards. The specific details are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary of adopted PNS based on commodity

Category	Number of PNS developed by BAFS	Number of PNS Adopted as basis for Technical Regulations	% Adoption
Crops	154	27	18%
Livestock	35	10	29%
Fish and Fishery	38	7	18%
Agriculture and Fisheries Machinery and Infrastructures	70	1	1%
General PNS	8	1	13%
Organic Agriculture	7	7	100%
Halal	5	0	-
Total	317	53	17%

Among the agencies surveyed, the BPI has adopted the most significant number of PNS, 20 PNS, as the basis of their technical regulations. BAI follows BPI with nine PNS, BFAR and BAFS with seven, PCA with three, SRA, NDA, PhilFIDA with two, and BAFE, NMIS, and FPA with one PNS each. This is illustrated in Figure 8.



The standards developed by BAFS are voluntary and only become mandatory when DA regulatory agencies (DA RAs) adopt the standards as the basis for technical regulations. In support of this, the BAFS prepared the draft Department Order Guidelines and Procedures on the Adoption of Food Safety related PNS as Basis for Technical Regulations to increase the adoption of food-safety related PNS by the DA FSRAs.

Figure 8. Number of adopted PNS by DA regulatory agencies

Knowledge Management

Guided by the approved BAFS Logical Framework, the Division consolidated and expanded its efforts related to knowledge management - development and publication of various knowledge products, the conduct of webinars, and launching of online course modules. By 2021, the Division successfully achieved its target of promoting 10% of adopted PNS. i.e., 31 PNS.

Development of Knowledge Products

BAFS developed and published four types of knowledge products (KPs)- explanatory manual (EM), illustrative guide (IG), comics, and infographics. In 2021, the TSD developed 17 different KPs, including one EM, three IGs, nine comics, and four infographics, which is more than twice the number of KPs produced in 2020.

The 17 KPs developed for 2021 showcased ten crops, four fisheries, and three livestock-related standards as shown in Figure 9.

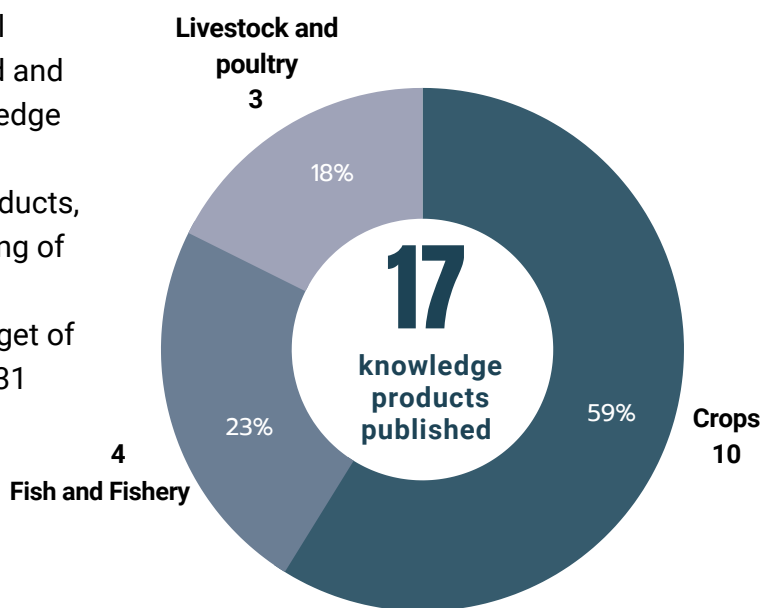


Figure 9. Knowledge products published in 2021 by sector



Conduct of Learning and Development (L&D) Activities

Webinars

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

The 2021 BAFS webinar series, aimed at increasing awareness of food safety and quality standards, featured 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 specific month's celebration. Figure 10 summarizes the distribution of webinar topics per the PNS commodity sector.

Overall, the 2021 BAFS webinars had 2,966 participants, with 1,525 average Facebook post engagements and 75.5% average customer satisfaction.

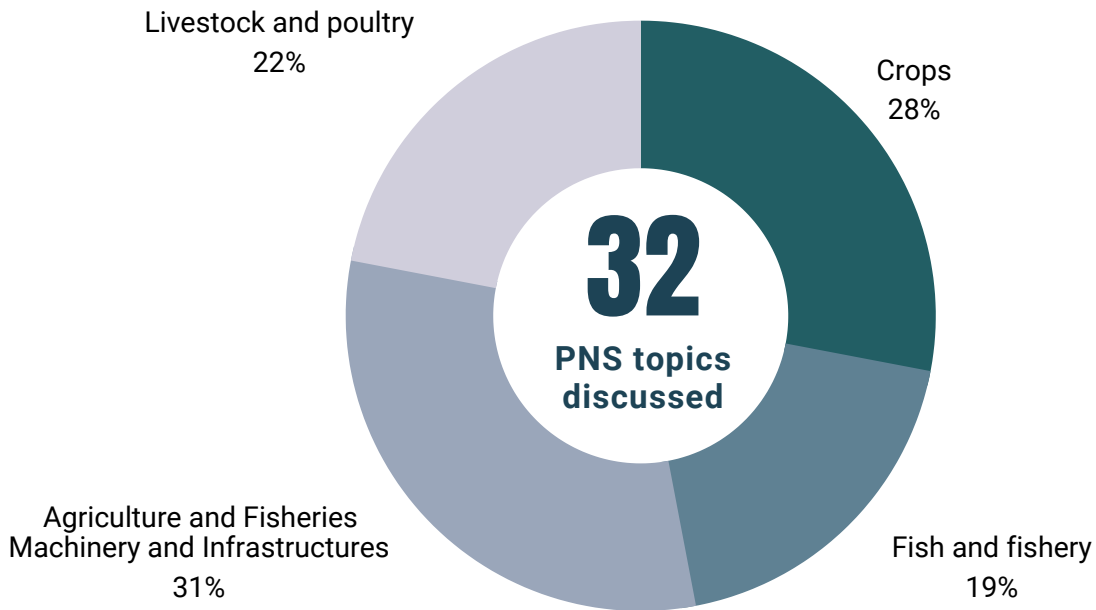


Figure 10. Percentage distribution of the 32 webinar topics per commodity sector

BAFS Online Academy



As part of its promotion activities in 2021, BAFS continued to offer four online learning modules through its BAFS Online Academy. These modules were: (1) Online Capability Building on the Rules and Procedures on the Provision of Certification

Assistance for Organic Agriculture Entities, (2) Online Training on the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture (PNS OA), and the use of the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture, (3) Risk-based Inspection (RBI): Conducting RBI during pre-assessment or organic farm management, and (4) Virtual Awareness Seminar on the Philippine National Standards for Organic Biocontrol Agents (PNS/BAFS 182:2016).

Since 2020, BAFS issued 149 certificates from 433 enrollees on the BAFS Online Academy.



4
learning
modules



149
certificates



433
enrollees

BAFS

Certified Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accredited Provider

Provider Accreditation No. AGR-2021-033



Registration to the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) and Certification as Book and e-Book Publisher

In 2021, the Bureau successfully registered a total of 182 publications consisting of 167 approved PNS, eight 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.

BAFS is also a certified book and e-book publisher. The National Book and Development Board (NBDB) granted the certificate recognizing BAFS as a bonafide publisher. As such BAFS-developed PNS and KPs can be registered with the National Library of the Philippines (NLP). The certification is valid from July 2021 until September 2022.

182 publications registered



Technical Bulletins

To improve consumers' perception of emerging food safety and quality issues, the Bureau also issued four technical bulletins in 2021. The topics covered were:

1. Avian Influenza
2. Melanosis in Shrimp/Prawn
3. Ensuring the Safety and Quality of Copra
4. Frozen Meat Safety and Quality

BAFS Social Media and Website Management

 **18,362**
FB page new followers

 **161,973**
website visitors

 **11,479**
website downloads

As of November 15, 2021, the BAFS official Facebook page gained 18,362 new followers.

Meanwhile, the BAFS website recorded 161,973 visitors and 11,479 downloads of its online resources. Among the available materials on the BAFS website, the following were the top five most downloaded publications:

1. PNS/BAFS 07:2016 Organic Agriculture
2. PNS/BAFS 308:2021 Agricultural Structure - Lairage - Swine
3. PNS/BAFS 183:2020 Organic Soil Amendments
4. PNS/BAFS 291:2019 Code of practice for the production of organic soil amendments
5. PNS/BAFS 141:2019 Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Rice

Service Quality Innovation (SQI)

The BAFS is a recipient of the technical assistance on Service Quality Innovation (SQI) by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). The assistance aims to develop the capabilities in the co-creation process and service improvements innovations, facilitating innovation-related activities of the Bureau. This endeavor is consistent with the Bureau’s commitment to improving its services continuously, and the innovations identified will be helpful to the BAFS Quality Management System (QMS) implementation. As a start, the DAP and BAFS conducted a Masterclass on SQI on November 5, 2021 (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Group photo during the Masterclass on SQI conducted by DAP

Project Preparation Grant (PPG) on Regulatory Impact Assessment

In January-June 2021, a series of meetings were conducted to plan and develop tools that would be useful in the project (Figure 12). The interview guide questionnaire was finalized from July to November, and a series of interviews with relevant agencies was carried out.

The STDF consultants submitted a short report to summarize the results of table research and interviews conducted. The report highlighted the current state of GRPs in the agricultural and fisheries sectors in the Philippines and assessed the essential need to operationalize GRPs in these sectors.

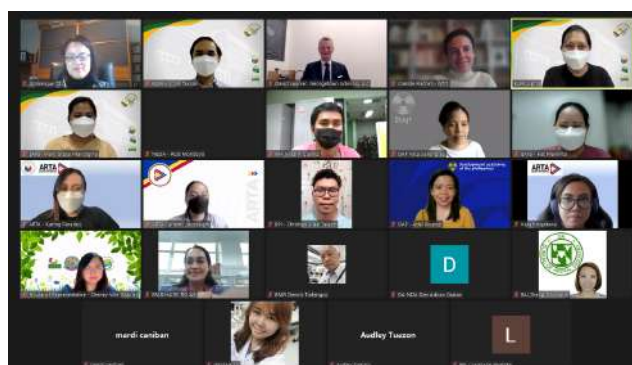


Figure 12. Group photo during the STDF PPG on RIA Workshop Session 1

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

2021

Standards Promotion
Accomplishments

12
WEBINARS



2,966
Participants



32
Featured PNS



75.5% Average
Overall satisfaction

17
KNOWLEDGE
PRODUCTS

- Comics
- Technical Bulletins
- Illustrative Guides
- Explanatory Manuals
- Infographics / Posters



Laboratory Services Division

The Laboratory Services Division produced its first set of research outputs in 2021, the same year that the Bureau's refocusing/strengthening of function mandated the Division to collect scientific data, formulate technical reports, and develop risk profiling and/or risk assessment reports to support standards development and policy recommendation.

Risk Profiling and/or Risk Assessment Report

The Bureau's efforts in risk profiling and/or risk assessment characterize hazards and risks associated with primary and postharvest food or ingredients and specify risk management options to protect consumer health and promote fair trade practices.

In 2021, LSD prepared one food safety risk profiling report to support the National Dairy Authority in its regulatory activities on milk.



Risk Profiling Report Developed

Aflatoxin M1 in Raw Milk

Scientific/Technical Report

With the Bureau's objective to develop and harmonize agri-fishery standards, the BAFS, through the LSD, searches for data from local and international standards, published research, legislations, Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs), and other national data sources; conducts field data gathering; and formulates technical reports that would support the development and amendment of Philippine National Standards (PNS).

In 2021, the LSD developed one scientific and technical report on Pesticide MRLs in Cabbage and is currently working on four other papers.



Scientific / Technical Report Developed

Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in Cabbage

Department policy issuances endorsed by the Laboratory Services Division:

**Department Order
No. 6, s. 2021**

The Department Order (DO) designated the Food Development Center (FDC) as the new coordinating agency vice BAFS as former in-charge of the function. The DO aims to strengthen the capabilities of DA laboratories to support policies, regulations and enforcement, research and development, standards development, production, extension and marketing services.



Revised Policy on Rationalization and Strengthening of DA National and Regional Laboratory Services

**Memo Circular
No.12, s. 2021**

The memorandum mandates the adoption of the Plan of Action and Milestone (POA&M), a five-year plan envisioned to institutionalize biosecurity, safety and surveillance in the regular programs of the DA agencies and units.



Establishing a Sustainable and Effective Biosafety, -Security and - Surveillance (BSS&S) System in the DA and Adopting the POA&M as its Roadmap

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

2021

Accomplishments

1

Risk Profiling Report Developed



Aflatoxin M1 in Raw Milk

1

Scientific/Technical Report Developed



Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in Cabbage

2

Policy Issuances Endorsed

DO No. 6, s. 2021

Rationalization and Strengthening of the Department of Agriculture (DA) National and Regional Laboratory Services

MC No. 12, s. 2021

Establishing the Sustainable and Effective Biosafety, -Security and -Surveillance (BSS&S) System in the Department of Agriculture and Adopting the Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) as its Roadmap

BAFS takes pride in supporting the Herd Immunity Program of the Philippine Government

As countries around the world gear up against the threat of the COVID-19, particularly on the surge of Delta variant, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended every nation to speed up vaccination to achieve herd immunity. Accordingly, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) ramped up its effort to safeguard the health and safety of its personnel and clientele by vaccinating its workforce. The efforts started last May 2021 through coordination and participation in the various vaccination drives organized by the Local Government Units (LGUs). All BAFS employees, including its outsourced personnel such as janitorial and security staff, were completely vaccinated. Thus, BAFS has 100% fully vaccinated employees and staff.

The BAFS continues to intensify its protective measures against COVID-19 transmission by strictly implementing social distancing, wearing a face mask and face shield, carrying out temperature checks, and providing alcohol and sanitizers, even after all employees got fully vaccinated. Likewise, intensive daily and weekly disinfection of its workplace are conducted compliant with the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious standards.

Because of these efforts, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) recognized the unrelenting and consistent efforts on BAFS personnel inoculation to ensure uninterrupted government service and contribute to the much-desired herd immunity. The CSC's Certificate of Appreciation was issued on September 27, 2021, at the CSC Central Office.





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

