

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



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





## ABOUT THE COVER

The multi-colored strands represent a positive outlook as BAFS explored and maximized the opportunities in this time of crisis. We work as one as we remain innovative and resilient.

Together, we move forward!  
#WalangIwanan

Editors: Dr. Myer G. Mula, Ms. Mary Grace R. Mandigma, Ms. Rosemarie V. Calibo, Ms. Katrina L. Maminta, Mr. Vicente D. Limsan, Jr.

Writers: Frederick C. Crisol, Farlash D. Pancho, Kristel Alarice R. Aborido, Krisha Marie L. Mecija, Alpha M. Lanuza, Jan Vincent DR. Tecson, Edna Lynn C. Floresca, Jerilee M. Sabariaga, Zaireen B. Cleofe, Mark F. Matubang, Vera Ysabel V. de la Cruz, Geeza June V. Painaga, Jeffrey S. Garrido

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

All rights reserved. The BAFS encourages the reproduction and dissemination of the materials upon request. Applications for permission to reproduce or disseminate these materials and all other queries shall be addressed to the following:

### **Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards**

BAFS Building, BPI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
info.dabafs@gmail.com | bafs@da.gov.ph  
(+632) 8928 8756 to 65 local 3301 - 3325

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

March 2021

[www.bafs.da.gov.ph](http://www.bafs.da.gov.ph)

Cover Design & Layout: Vicente D. Limsan, Jr.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



The year 2020 was a challenging year for Filipinos. The series of natural calamities and events adversely affected the food value chain, especially the agriculture and fishery sector which we are mandated to foster.

Major shifts in the economic and trade situation, and traditional policies brought by the COVID-19 pandemic have made the public eye skeptical on the ability of the government to continue the delivery of its services.

The Department lauds the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) for being resilient as a public office, and responsive to the needs of its stakeholders in this time of crisis.

The BAFS was able to deliver its mandates by ensuring food safety and quality through standardization, implementing organic agriculture regulations, providing technical support to policies, and in institutionalizing the integrated laboratories of the Department of Agriculture.

In this Annual Report, our dear readers will appreciate what BAFS has done despite the challenges in movement, communication, and other logistical needs. Indeed, BAFS continues to prove that innovation and resilience are key to moving forwards and in providing effective public service.

I congratulate and thank the people behind the accomplishments of DA-BAFS for their unwavering service despite the strains of 2020. Rest assured that the Department supports DA-BAFS in its endeavors to develop the Philippine agriculture and fishery sector.

*Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang Bagong Pananaw sa Agrikultura: Isang Pilipinas na may maunlad na seguridad sa pagkain at mga magsasaka at mangingisdang may maunlad at masaganang buhay.*

**WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**  
DA Secretary

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Cheers to BAFS and the people behind its accomplishments!

Indeed, the year 2020 brought out the best in our people. We may have started slow last year in implementing our activities but as we adjusted to the ‘new normal’ we were able to look for alternative approaches to provide the services we pledged to our stakeholders. And we delivered more than what is expected of us.

I wish to congratulate all the men and women behind this success. This annual report captures key developments and successes in 2020. The opportunity to fully embrace modern technology knocked on our door, and we embraced it fully. It brought efficiencies and cost savings to the Bureau. From hereon, the BAFS will continue to build on its past work and seek to learn, think about, and plan for how and where our programs and activities can have the greatest cumulative and lasting impacts. Hoping against hope that opportunities will eventually outweigh the challenges.

And as guided by the 5-year logical framework, I am very excited as BAFS embarks again to render efficient services and contribute to ensuring safety and making the agri-fishery sector globally competitive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myer G. Mula'.

**MYER G. MULA, Ph.D.**  
*OIC-Director, BAFS*

# GLOSSARY

AFMA	Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997
AFMech	Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization Law of 2013
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASOA	ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture
BAFS	Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards
COP/COHP	Code of Practice / Code of Hygienic Practice
CUPI	Control Union Philippines, Inc.
DA	Department of Agriculture
FSA	Food Safety Act of 2013
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GAHP	Good Animal Husbandry Practices
LSD	Laboratory Services Division
MIS	Management Information System
MOOE	Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NICERT	Negros Island Certification Services
OAD	Organic Agriculture Division
OAVT	Organic Agriculture Validation Team
OBICA	Organic Biological Control Agents
OCCP-ICSI	OCCP-Inspection and Certification Services, Inc.
OSA	Organic Soil Amendments
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
PHEDPA	Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016
PNS	Philippine National Standard
PS	Personnel Services
QMS	Quality Management System
RADDL	Regional Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory
ROPST	Regional Organic Post Market Surveillance Team
SDD	Standards Development Division
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TSD	Technical Services Division
US-DTRA	United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Message from the Secretary	iii	<b>Laboratory Services</b>	25
Message from the Director	iv	Rationalization and Strengthening of DA Laboratory Services	26
Glossary	v	Plans for CY 2021	27
List of Figures	viii	<b>Organic Agriculture Regulations</b>	29
List of Tables	ix	Registration of Organic Farms, Producers and Input Products	30
Executive Summary	2	Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies	31
Mission, Vision, and Mandates	5	Organic Agriculture Validation / Monitoring Activities	32
<b>2020 Financial and Physical Performance</b>	9	Networking and Stakeholder Engagements	32
<b>Standards Development</b>	13	Other activities conducted related to organic agriculture	33
Development of Philippine National Standards	14	ASEAN Commitments	34
Harmonization of ASEAN Standards	15	Plans for CY 2021	34
Standards Support to the Regulatory Functions of the Department of Agriculture	16	<b>Annexes</b>	36
Celebration of the World Standards Day	17		
Plans for CY 2021	17		
<b>Technical Services</b>	19		
ISO Certification	20		
Assessment of Philippine National Standard Implementation	20		
Information Dissemination Strategies on Adopted Philippine National Standards and Select Food Safety Issues	20		
Monitoring of WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Notifications	23		
Plans for CY 2021	23		



**LIST OF FIGURES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Monthly progress of BAFS expenditure	10
2	Overall performance of BAFS on physical targets	11
3	Comparative illustration of BAFS 2020 Physical and Financial Performance	11
4	Food Safety Webinars Issued E-certificates	21
5	Food Safety Webinars Reach	21
6	Food Safety Webinars Post Engagement	21
7	Percentage distribution of BAFS online activities conducted	22

**LIST OF TABLES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	BAFS Physical Targets for 2020	10
2	Number of Developed PNS per quarter	14
3	Categorization of PNS in terms of Quality standards versus Food Safety	14
4	Categorization of PNS in terms of its type	14
5	SDD support to regulatory functions activities	16
6	BAFS- SDD World Standards Day Activities	17
7	SDD target number of PNS to be developed CY 2021	17
8	Audience retention during live feed of BAFS food safety webinars	21
9	Regulatory Documents Issued in 2020	30
10	Organic Agricultural Facilities and Products Monitored and/or Inspected with Reports Issued in 2020	32

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), created by Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, is mandated to develop and promote standards to ensure consumer safety and global competitiveness of Philippine agriculture and fishery products.

The standards development function of the Bureau was further strengthened by the enactment of several laws namely the Republic Act No. 10601 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization Law of 2013, Republic Act No. 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013, Republic Act No. 10817 or the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016 and the Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law. These laws mandated the Bureau to develop standards on agri-fishery machineries, tools and equipment, food safety standards on agriculture and fishery commodities, primary and postharvest Halal products, and specifications and test methods for farm machinery and equipment that will be procured under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, respectively.

In 2010, by virtue of the Organic Agriculture Act, the BAFS was mandated to:

- a. Develop standards for organic agriculture
- b. Establish technical regulations--official accreditation of organic certifying bodies,
- c. Register organic food and input producers, as well as to create effective linkages and networking with relevant stakeholders, and
- d. Serve as technical and administrative secretariat of the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB).

Since its creation, BAFS has already developed 307 Philippine National Standards (PNS) on agricultural and fishery products, machinery and structures including organic agriculture and halal. These standards cater the sectors of food and non-food crops, livestock, poultry, fisheries and aquaculture, organic agriculture and Halal.

### 2020 Physical and Financial Performance

In the implementation of the Bureau's FY 2020 projects, programs, and activities, BAFS received a total allotment of Php 21,844,685.66 for its Personnel Services (PS) and a total of Php 53,741,482.10 for its Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE). The Bureau's MOOE budget was sourced from its allocation on General Administration and Support Services (GASS) at Php 1,922,927.51, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Support Services at Php 1,373,000.00, Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Services at Php 42,964,000.00 and a continuing allocation of Php 7,481,554.59 from its FY 2019 budget.

With the allotted budget, the Bureau has accomplished the following:

1. 24 Philippine National Standards (PNS) developed;
2. 87 Regulatory documents relevant to organic agriculture issued (i.e. permits, certificates, and registration);
3. 19 agricultural facilities monitored and/or inspected relative to organic agriculture regulations; and
4. Two technical review documents issued concerning safety of agricultural or fishery food commodities.

The year 2020 has been a challenging year for the implementation of BAFS projects, programs and activities due to the pandemic. However, despite the hurdles, BAFS was able to record a 174% accomplishment of its major targets which was possible through its migration to online platforms for the conduct of, among others, technical working group meetings, public consultations, and writeshops.

## AT A GLANCE

### 2020 Accomplishments

24

Philippine National Standards (PNS) developed



Regulatory documents issued on Organic Agriculture (OA)

87

19

Agricultural facilities monitored and/or inspected (OA)



Technical review documents issued (food safety)

2

# MISSION, VISION, AND MANDATES

**MISSION,  
VISION,  
AND MANDATES**



## A. Mission & Vision

The Bureau's general direction is encapsulated in its mission and vision that will serve as a guide for its managers and personnel as well as the public and key stakeholders on what they should expect from BAFS.

The mission statement of the Bureau defines its core purpose of its existence as espoused as: "To develop and promote agricultural and fishery standards, and enforce organic agriculture regulations ensuring consumers' safety and product quality, and contributing to environmental protection, worker's welfare and enhanced market access."

Meanwhile, the vision represents the desired state to which the Bureau commits itself. It provides a concrete way for stakeholders and employees to understand the meaning and purpose of BAFS by describing the desired impact and long-term result of the Bureau's efforts. The medium-term vision of the Bureau is: "By 2025, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards is the trusted agency for the development of agricultural and fishery standards within ASEAN, and in the enforcement of organic agriculture regulations."

## B. Mandates

Since its creation by virtue of the Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (or "AFMA of 1997"), the Bureau is the sole standard-setting agency for agriculture and fishery products under the Department of Agriculture. In addition to AFMA of 1997, there are four (4) more laws that explicitly called for BAFS to perform additional functions, duties and responsibilities.

In 2010, the Republic Act No. 10068, otherwise known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (OAA of 2010), has mandated BAFs to be the competent authority for organic agriculture that shall grant official accreditation to organic certifying bodies, issue registration on organic farms, organic input producers, and organic inputs such as organic soil amendments (OSA) and organic biocontrol agents (OBCA).

In 2013, there are two laws, namely: Republic Act No. 10601 (or known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization Act (AFMech) of 2013), and the Republic Act No. 10611 (or popularly known as Food Safety Act (FSA) of 2013), that mandated BAFS to develop standards for agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment, and standards for food safety, respectively. Relatedly, the Bureau was renamed from the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards (BAFPS) to Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) by virtue of the AFMEch of 2013.

In 2016, the Republic Act No. 10817, otherwise known as the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act (PHEDPA) of 2016, further mandated the Bureau to develop standards for Halal for primary and post-harvest food.



# FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**FINANCIAL  
AND PHYSICAL  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



### A. Financial Performance

The year 2020 has been a challenging year for the implementation of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards' projects, programs and activities due to the pandemic. In the implementation of the Bureau's FY 2020 projects, programs, and activities, BAFS received a total allotment of Php 21,844,685.66 for its Personnel Services (PS) and a total of Php 53,741,482.10 for its Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) which were sourced from its allocation from General Administration and Support Services (GASS) at Php 1,922,927.51, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Support Services at Php 1,373,000.00, Agriculture and Fisheries Regulation Services at Php 42,964,000.00 and a continuing allocation of Php 7,481,554.59 from its FY 2019 budget. The total allocation of Php 75,586,167.76 was mainly allotted for the accomplishment as shown in Table 1.

However, with the issuance of National Budget Circular 580 (NBC 580) last April 22, 2020 on the adoption of economic measures in the government due to the emergency health situation, BAFS discontinued Php 13,681,524.00 from its FY 2020 Regular Funds and Php 3,674,636.00 from its FY 2019 Continuing Allocation mainly allocated for travel expenses, building repair and maintenance, trainings, and representation expenses and Php 1,182,240.00 from its Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Support Services allocated for the Bureau's function for the National Organic Agriculture Board. This discontinuance is to support the effort of the national government in addressing a more pressing issue on budget for health and food sufficiency during the quarantine and lockdown periods. In compliance with NBC 580 BAFS total

Table 1. BAFS Physical Targets for FY 2020

Performance Indicators	FY 2020 Targets
<b>Development of Philippine National Standards</b>	
Standards developed	24
<b>Issuance of Regulatory Documents</b>	
Permit	18
Certificate	3
Registration	14
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
Agricultural Facilities monitored and/or inspected with reports issued	15
<b>Issuance of Technical/Scientific Documents</b>	
Number of technical review documents issued concerning safety of agricultural or fishery food commodity	2

allocation amounting to Php 75,586,167.76 was reduced to Php 57,047,767.76.

With the Bureau's adoption of new strategies for the conduct of its activities, BAFS was able to reduce its programs cost for the year. With its reduced budget of Php 57,047,767.76 for the conduct of its activities the Bureau was able to save Php 401,843.06 from its GASS, Php 5,098,410.84 from its Agriculture and Fishery Regulations Services budget, and Php 2,014,984.87 from its FY 2019 continuing funds bringing its total expenditure to Php 49,532,528.99 for the year 2020. BAFS was able to utilize 87% of its total allocation for the year. Figure 1 shows the monthly progress of BAFS expenditure.

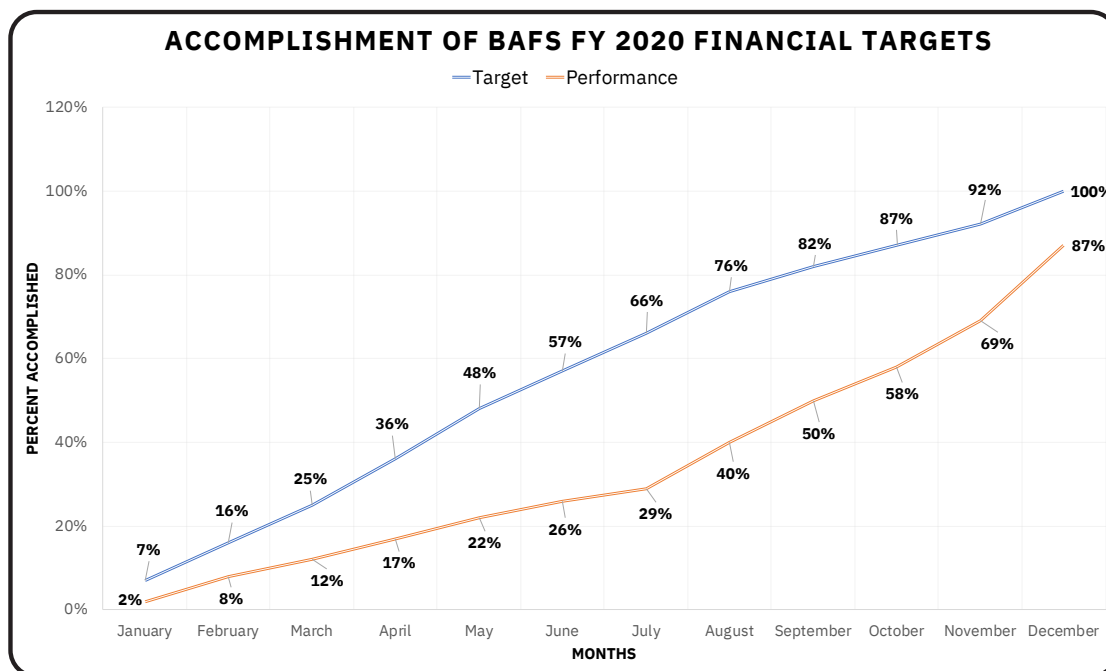


Figure 1. Monthly progress of BAFS expenditure

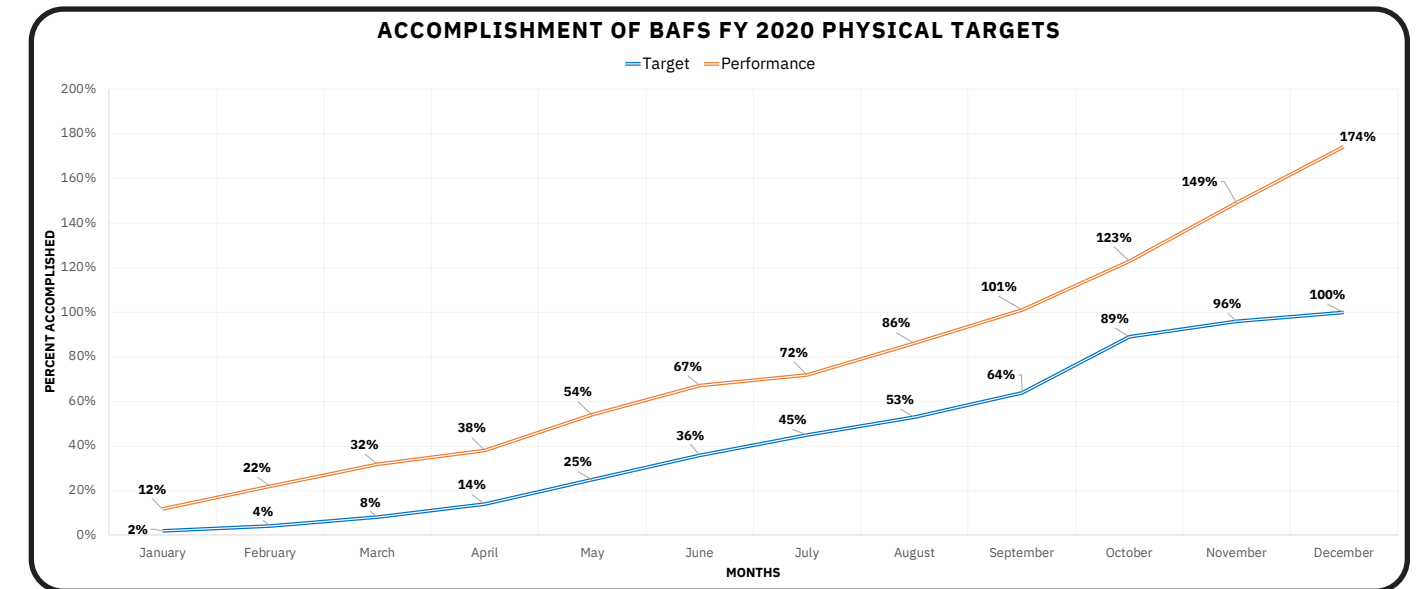


Figure 2. Overall performance of BAFS on physical targets

### B. Physical Performance

BAFS was able to record a 174% accomplishment of its major targets for FY 2020 which was possible through its migration to online platforms for the conduct of technical working group meetings, public consultations, and writeshops (Figure 2).

In response to travel restrictions, BAFS also developed and piloted a Quality Procedure for remote audit to enable it to perform its audit, monitoring and validation functions.

For the Bureau's function on the issuance of regulatory documents, BAFS was able to issue a total of 87 regulatory documents for certificates of accreditation, import and export permit, and registrations out of the targeted 35 regulatory documents. The accomplishment was due to the issuance of the guidelines for the registration of Organic Soil Amendments (OSA) and Organic

Bio-control Agents (OBCA) Department Circulars No. 4 and No. 5 series of 2020 respectively which required the registration of both OSA and OBCA producers and products.

### C. 2020 Physical vis-à-vis Financial Performance

The year 2020 may have been a challenging year of implementation but with the Bureau's key strategies and mitigation plans, BAFS was able to achieve 174% of its overall targets while utilizing only 87% of its budgetary allocation (Figure 3).

This challenge helped the Bureau evolve and venture out to explore other means to perform its functions and commitments. BAFS transitioned into the digital information stage enabling it to reach its stakeholders and gather information needed to perform its mandates.

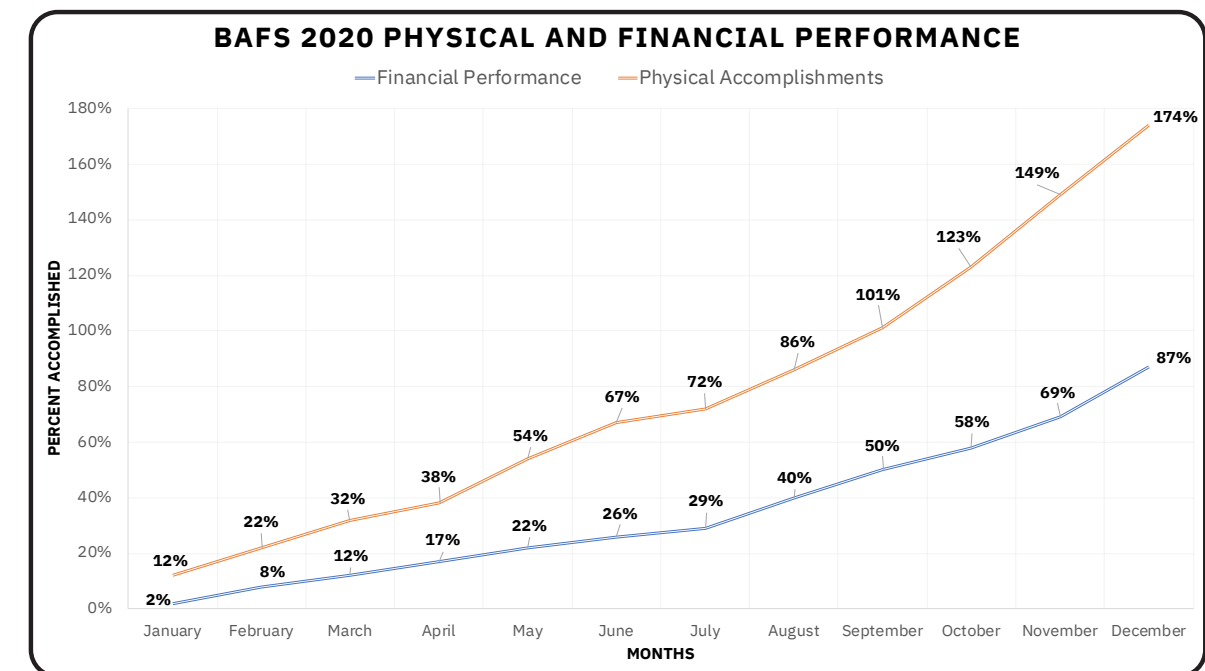


Figure 3. Comparative illustration of BAFS 2020 Physical and Financial Performance

# STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

**STANDARDS  
DEVELOPMENT**



## A. Development of Philippine National Standards

The Bureau has targeted twenty-four (24) Philippine National Standards (PNS) to be developed for 2020 (Table 2). With the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Standards Development Division (SDD) transitioned from conducting its standardization activities from physical to virtual set-up. The overall physical target on the development of the PNS was 100% accomplished by the Bureau with minor deviations reported in the 3rd (150%) and 4th (93%) quarters. Technically, the bulk of the standards were reported in the 4th quarter in correlation to a one (1) year project completion. However, some of the approved PNS were reported in other quarters to anticipate time constraints and delayed discussion on the concurrence of the TWG on the finalization of the draft.

The Philippine National Standards (PNS) are categorized as either food safety standards, if it explicitly shows the microbiological and chemical limits for a specific food commodity or quality standards, if it's provision relevant to a market requirement (e.g. specification and grading). For 2020, the majority (67%) of the PNS developed are food safety standards, while the remaining (33%) are quality standards. The breakdown of PNS developed by category is shown in Table 3.

Standards developed are commonly categorized into crops, livestock and poultry, fisheries and aquaculture, machinery and infrastructure, organic agriculture, and general standards depending on focused commodity or practice (Table 4).

The list of approved Philippine National Standards is shown in Annex A while the disaggregation per classification is shown in Annex B.

Table 2. Number of developed PNS per quarter

Quarter	Target	Accomplishment
Q1	1	1 (100%)
Q2	6	6 (100%)
Q3	2	3 (150%)
Q4	15	14 (93%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24 (100%)</b>

Table 3. Categorization of PNS in terms of Quality standards versus Food Safety

Category	Food Safety	Quality	Total
Crops	4	1	5
Livestock and Poultry	1	0	1
Fisheries and aquaculture	6	0	6
Machinery and Infrastructure	0	6	6
Organic Agriculture	0	1	1
General	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>

Table 4. Categorization of PNS in terms of its type

Category	Specifications	Code of Practice	Methods of Test	Total
Crops	3	2	0	5
Livestock and Poultry	0	1	0	1
Fisheries and aquaculture	2	4	0	6
Machinery and Infrastructure	3	0	3	6
Organic Agriculture	1	0	0	1
General	0	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>

## B. Harmonization of ASEAN Standards

### 1. Task Force Meeting on ASEAN Standards for Horticultural Produce and Other Food Crops (TF-MASHP)

The Philippines, through BAFS, has led the harmonization of ASEAN Standards for Horticultural Produce and Other Food Crops through the Task Force Meeting of the ASEAN Standards for Horticultural Produce and Other Food Crops (TF-MASHP) from March to July 2020.

The ASEAN Standards recommended to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group for Crops (ASWGC) for its endorsement to the ASEAN Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) are:

- a. ASEAN Standard for Straw mushroom;
- b. ASEAN Standard for Strawberry; and
- c. ASEAN Standard for White potato.

### 2. Experts Working Group on the Harmonization of Maximum Residue Limits (EWG-MRLs) of Pesticides Among ASEAN Countries

The Philippines, through BAFS, served as the Chair of the Experts Working Group on the Harmonization of Maximum Residue Limits (EWG-MRLs) of Pesticides Among ASEAN Countries as elected from CY 2020-2022. The EWG works on the harmonization of MRLs of pesticides among ASEAN countries.

In 2020, the EWG agreed to submit the proposed MRL for the following:

- a. Deltamethrin in jackfruit at 0.2 mg/kg;
- b. Trifloxystrobin in curry leaf at 3 mg/kg;
- c. Carbaryl in mangosteen at 20 mg/kg; and
- d. Metalaxyl in pomelo at 0.8 mg/kg.

### 3. ASEAN Experts Working Group for Good Animal Husbandry Practices (EWG - GAHP)

The Philippines, with BAFS at the forefront, is the permanent member of the ASEAN Experts Working Group for Good Animal Husbandry Practices (EWG-GAHP). The EWG works on the alignment of the national standards against ASEAN Standard on GAHP for Layers and Broilers: Food Safety, Animal Welfare, Environmental Sustainability.

Furthermore, the EWG noted the alignment matrices for newly adopted ASEAN GAHP standards against the national standards:

- a. ASEAN GAHP for Pig;
- b. ASEAN GAHP for Beef Cattle and Meat Buffaloes;
- c. ASEAN GAHP for Ducks (Meat and Eggs);
- d. ASEAN GAHP for Goat and Sheep; and
- e. ASEAN GAHP for Dairy Cattle.

### 4. Expert Working Group on ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (EWG - ASEAN GAP)

The Philippines, as the chair of the EWG-ASEAN GAP, hosted its 11th Meeting last 15-26 June 2020 inter-sessionally via email exchanges. The BAFS, as the national focal point of the Philippines to the working group, chaired and facilitated the discussions.

The 11th EWG-ASEAN GAP discussed the progress of activities under the Plan of Action (POA) for the ASEAN Cooperation in GAP (2016-2020) including the results of the alignment of the revised national standards with the ASEAN GAP.





NVES, Nueva Vizcaya (Region II) • 2021 • Photo by Vicente D. Limsan, Jr.

### C. Standards Support to the Regulatory Functions of the Department of Agriculture

The Bureau provides technical support and assistance to the regulatory agencies of the Department of Agriculture in their adoption and translation of Philippine National Standards into technical regulations and certification guidelines.

In 2020, the Standards Development Division (SDD) aided in the development of regulatory documents of various DA agencies or units. Among the three documents supported by SDD, two of which are on-going, and one has been approved. The approved document is the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture. Table 5 shows the details of the support and the relevant regulatory documents status.

Table 5. SDD support to regulatory functions activities

Agency / Operating Unit	Role of SDD	Document	Status
Organic Agriculture Division - Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards	TWG Member	National List for the Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture	Approved
Policy Research Service - Department of Agriculture	TWG Member	Memorandum Circular on Food Safety Measures for Rice	On-going
Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Engineering	TWG Member	Department Circular on the Establishment and Enforcement of the National List of Adopted Philippine National Standards (PNS) / Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards (PABES)	On-going

### D. Celebration of the World Standards Day

The Bureau, spearheaded by the SDD, celebrated World Standards Day through a series of webinars with the theme: Learn, Adapt, Execute: Standards Development Approach during a Pandemic. The “World Standards Day” is celebrated to appreciate the importance of written standards on the local and global economy and to let people know how standards are being developed and to pay tribute to volunteer experts worldwide who are involved in technical agreements to published international standards

The three (3) part webinar series aims to share to the public how the standards development process of the Bureau copes up with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The webinar series discussed the following topics, first, the step-by-step process of standards development, second, the perception of the TWG experts on the new-normal set up of standards development, and lastly, the use and impact of standards in the country. The SDD World Standards Day celebration activities are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. BAFS- SDD World Standards Day Activities

Title of Webinar	Date Conducted	Target Audience	No. of Participants
Part 1 – Standards 101: Learn the basic principles in developing standards	October 15, 2020	General public, University students, Private organization	199
Part 2 – Progressing the Philippine National Standards during a Global Pandemic	October 27, 2020	TWG members and partners	80
Part 3 – Looking beyond - What is the use and impact of standards?	October 29, 2020	General public, University students, Private organization	100

### E. CY 2021 Physical Targets for Standards Development

The Bureau shall continue developing the Philippine National Standard (PNS) for agriculture and fishery products, machinery, and structure for CY 2021. The total number of PNS targeted to be developed is 20 as presented in Table 7.

Table 7. SDD target number of PNS to be developed CY 2021

Sector	Target Number of PNS
Crops (Food and Non-food)	6
Livestock and Poultry	5
Fishery and Aquaculture	5
Agri-fishery Machinery and Structure	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>



Public Market in La Union



# TECHNICAL SERVICES

**TECHNICAL  
SERVICES**



### A. ISO Certification

With its commitment to consistently deliver high quality products and services, and enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system to its clientele, BAFS implements a Quality Management System (QMS) aligned with the requirements of ISO 9001 standard international standards. In 2016, the Bureau satisfied all the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 and received its initial certification from TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines. The following year, the Bureau successfully upgraded its QMS to the 2015 version of the standard and added more processes in its scope of certification. Last February 25, 2020, the BAFS QMS successfully fulfilled the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 and renewed the certification from TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines.

The current scope of the certification includes the following processes:

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 Agricultural Operators;
5. Provision of Technical and Administrative Support to National Organic Agriculture Board; and
6. Creation of Linkages and networking with various stakeholders of Organic Agriculture.
7. Impact assessment of Philippine National Standards



### B. Assessment of Philippine National Standard Implementation

The Bureau through Technical Services Division (TSD) is tasked to conduct validation and impact evaluation of standards and codes of practice as per Food Safety Act of 2013. For this year, the implementation of three standards namely Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) and Organic Agriculture (OA) are planned to be assessed. A questionnaire was developed as the assessment tool for the initiative. This has been validated and converted digitally for launching in 2021.

### C. Information Dissemination Strategies on Adopted Philippine National Standards and Select Food Safety Issues

One of the mandates of the Bureau is to promote appropriate food safety and quality PNS through different platforms such as conduct of seminar orientation, development of explanatory brochures, illustrative guides, and other materials related to research, education, and communication. This aims to increase awareness of and conformance to standards that will ensure consumer safety and protection.

In response to the new normal set up, the Bureau shifted from physical to digital conduct of seminar-awareness promoting adopted Philippine National Standards. The BAFS managed to conduct the following seminar-awareness:

1. Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) for Swine, July 11, 2020;
2. Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), August 6, 2020;
3. Food Safety Related Standards for Philippine Cacao Beans, September 4, 2020;
4. Chikahan sa Bakuran: Ligtas na Gulayan sa Tahanan, August 11, 2020;

5. Pesticide Residues in Crops, September 14, 2020;
6. Food Safety Related Standards for Dairy, September 25, 2020; and
7. Online Meat Selling and its Safety, December 3, 2020.

The online seminar was conducted via Facebook Live streamed using StreamYard. In total, there were 1, 049 participants recorded based on the issued electronic certificates as shown in Figure 4.

In addition, online seminar related to current events and related legislation were also conducted such as:

1. Data Privacy Act orientation on July 9, 2020;
2. COVID-19 response in the workplace: Know what to do on August 14, 2020; and
3. Surviving COVID-19 while Battling Social Stigma on October 2, 2020.

As the webinars were conducted online through BAFS Facebook Page, the Bureau’s webinars performances were assessed using the established metrics of Facebook such as reach, engagement and audience retention (Figures 5, 6 and Table 8).

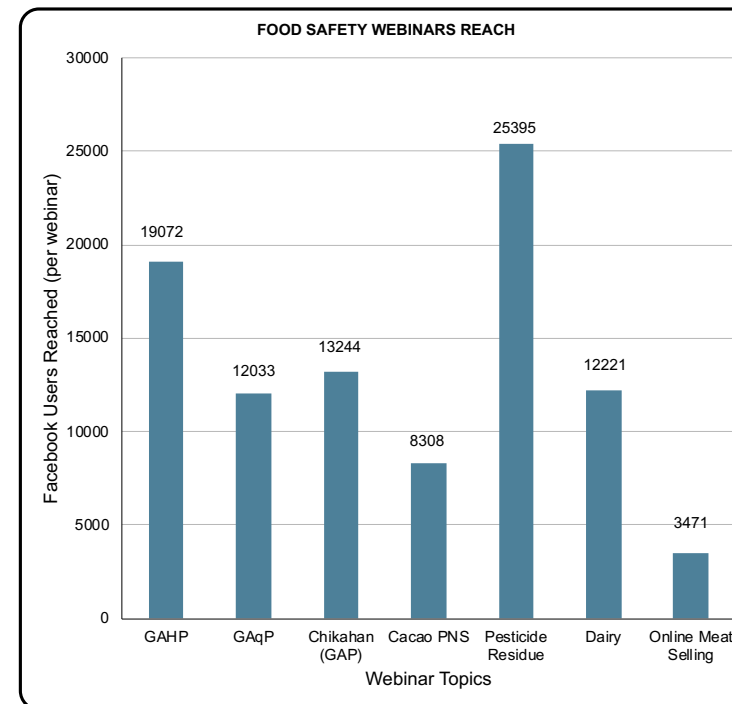


Figure 5. Food Safety Webinars Reach<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Data collected as of GAHP: July 17 - September 15, 2020; Pesticide Residues: September 14 - October 9, 2020; GAqP August 6 - September 21, 2020; Dairy: September 25 - October 19, 2020; Chikahan (GAP) August 11 - September 30, 2020; Online Meat Selling: December 3 - December 10, 2020; Cacao (PNS): September 4 - November 16, 2020

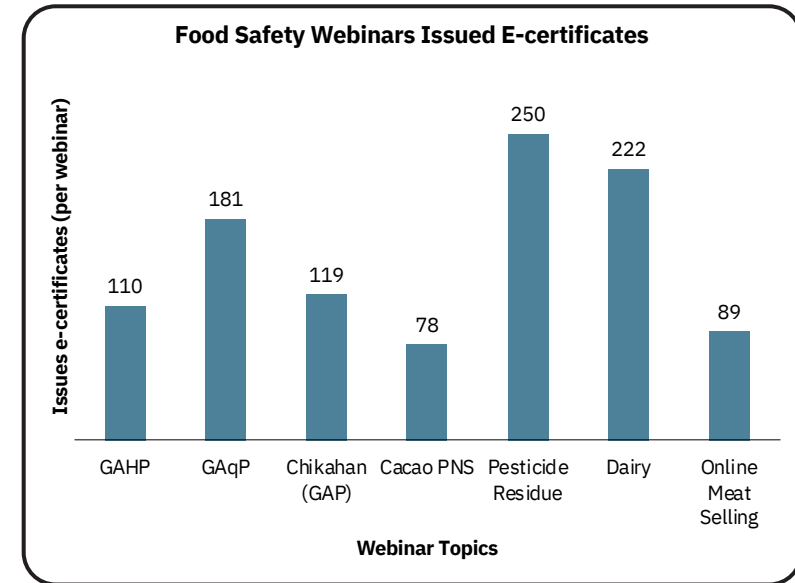


Figure 4. Food Safety Webinars Issued E-certificates

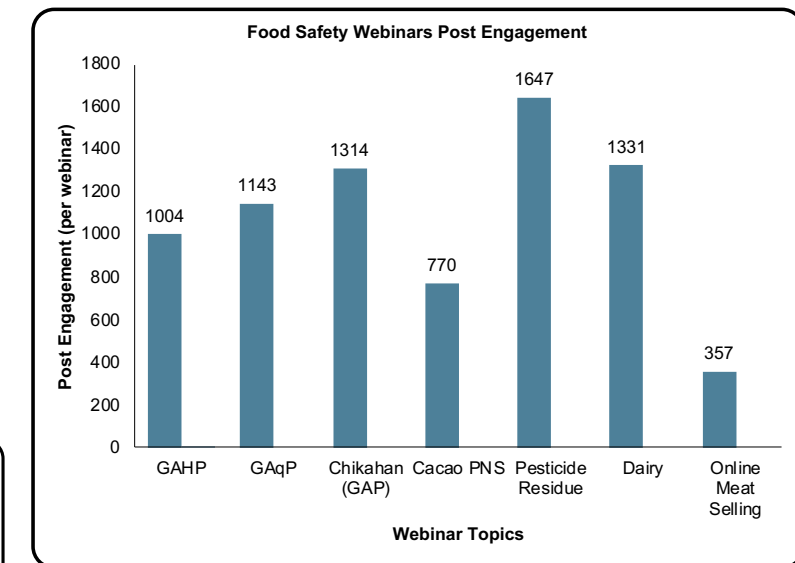


Figure 6. Food Safety Webinars Post Engagement<sup>1</sup>

Table 8. Audience retention during live feed of BAFS food safety webinars

Title of Webinar	Peak Live Viewers	% Audience Retention Rate
Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) for Swine	156	87%
Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP)	182	90%
Chikahan sa Bakuran: Ligtas na Gulayan sa Tahanan	181	84%
Food Safety Related Standards for Philippine Cacao Beans	87	74%
Pesticide Residues in Crops	274	78%
Food Safety Related Standards for Dairy	168	86%
Online Meat Selling and its Safety	73	88%

From July to December, 2020 the Bureau was able to conduct 44 online activities (16 webinars, 23 consultative meetings and 5 trainings) with a total of 2,301 participants (Figure 7). These activities were conducted by utilizing various online tools such as video conferencing applications (Cisco-Webex, Google Meet and Zoom), social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram), live streaming studio apps (Streamyard and OBS), and online course platform (Podia).

The Bureau also initiated the development of explanatory brochure/manual for the following standards:

1. PNS/BAFS 168:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for Meat
2. PNS/BAFS 267:2019 Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice (GAHP) for Swine

The explanatory documents intend to provide explanation of relevant requirements of standards to ensure its harmonized interpretation. The explanatory document also provides visual representation of requirements through photos and other images related to the standards provision.

In order to facilitate the drafting, online meetings were conducted using available platforms such as Google Meets, Zoom and Webex.

In order to promote the adopted standards, the Bureau also commissioned third party service to print 24, 500 of selected standards for distribution.

Among which, the Bureau also managed to successfully register the following standards for ISBN:

1. PNS/BAFS 60:2008 Good Animal Husbandry Practices (Illustrative Guide) - ISBN 978-621-455-004-3 (PDF); ISBN 978-621-455-005-0 (Softbound/Paperback)
2. PNS/BAFS 141: 2014 Code of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Rice - ISBN 978-621-455-001-2 (PDF); ISBN 978-621-455-002-9 (Softbound/Paperback)
3. GAP Philippine National Standard on Good

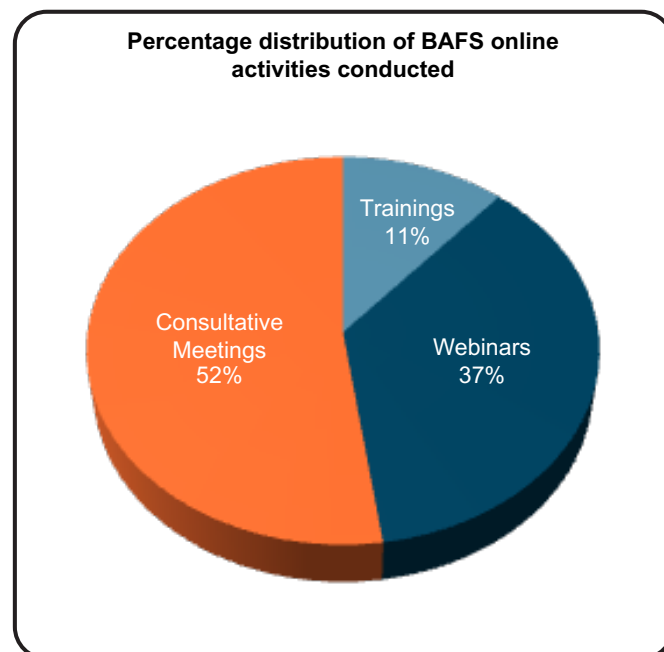


Figure 7. Percentage distribution of BAFS online activities conducted

- Agricultural Practices (PNS-GAP) "Gabay para sa ligtas na pagkain" - ISBN 978-621-455-003-6 (PDF); ISBN 978-621-455-000-5 (Softbound/Paperback)
4. Ang Pabula ng Matamis na Mangga Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on Mango - ISBN 978-621-455-006-7 (PDF)

In order to provide recommendations to the DA Secretary, the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Undersecretary for Regulations, the DA Regulatory Agencies, the National Codex Organization (NCO) and the general public, the Bureau initiated the conduct of scientific review on the following food safety concerns:

1. Food Safety Assessment of Radionuclide in Fresh Agricultural Commodities from Japan
2. Food Safety Assessment on Clostridium botulinum in Fish Sauce

And with an aim of improving consumers' perception of emerging food safety issues, the Bureau also conducted technical reviews and provided output in the form of technical bulletins:

1. Volcanic Ash Fall on Water and Agricultural and Fishery Commodities from the Areas Affected by the Taal Volcano Eruption
2. Use of Dishwashing Detergent in Washing Fruits and Vegetables

Although there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19, the Bureau endorsed the Guidelines on Food Safety for Philippine Agricultural and Fisheries Sectors in COVID-19. The Guideline only emphasized the recommended practices concerning good hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, storage, distribution and transport, and personnel hygiene and fitness to reduce possible COVID-19 transmission among employees, and maintain healthy business operations and work environment. The document was approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force on May 8, 2020.

The Bureau has also initiated the popularized version of the following quality standards:

1. PNS/BAFPS 09:2004 Fresh Fruit - Pineapple - Specifications
2. PNS/BAFPS 13:2004 Fresh Fruit - Mangoes - Specifications
3. Draft PNS/BAFS Cage-free Egg Production

The popularized versions of the adopted quality standards aim to facilitate uniform understanding and interpretation of PNS/BAFS for the purpose of its efficient adoption and implementation. These include Explanatory Brochures, Illustrative Guides, and Infographics.

#### Explanatory Brochures

1. EB on PNS/BAFS Cage-free Egg Production(drafting stage)

#### Illustrative Guides

1. IG for PNS/BAFS 09:2004 - Fresh Fruit - Pineapples - Specification
2. IG for PNS/BAFS 13:2004 - Fresh Fruit - Mangoes - Specification
3. IG for draft PNS/BAFS Cage-free Egg Production (drafting stage)

#### Infographics

1. Pinyamazing Experience ni Pina
2. Ang Kwento ng mga Malayang Inahing Manok - black and white version (finalization stage)

## D. Monitoring of WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Notifications

Due to the pandemic, TBT Roadshows were postponed indefinitely. However, to keep the partner agencies and stakeholders updated, several TBT notifications affecting the agriculture and fishery sectors were disseminated. These include 48 Requests for Guidance, 9 Alert Notices, 11 Request for Translation, 23 other reviewed TBT notifications and 3 TBT Awareness activities (Annex C).

## E. Plans for CY 2021

In 2021, the following are aimed to be completed:

1. ISO Certification. Maintenance of valid certificate through surveillance audit by November 2021;
2. Assessment of PNS Implementation. Initial assessment of implemented PNS such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) and Organic Agriculture. Certified farms targeted to be included are summarized as: GAP - 609; GAHP- 44; OA - 40.
3. Information Dissemination. Both physical and online seminars are targeted to be done next year. For food safety standards, five (5) webinars are planned to be delivered. Meanwhile, both food safety and quality standards, three (3) physical seminars are aimed to be delivered next year, in anticipation that physical activities will be allowed. In addition, development of explanatory brochures, infographics and popular formats such as comics are also included in promotional efforts for the standards. Continuous efforts to seek ISBN numbers for future publications will also be observed.
4. Food Safety Assessment. In 2021, food safety assessment for two (2) identified food hazards will be conducted. Simultaneously, three (3) technical bulletins will be developed in relation to emerging food safety issues for the agricultural sector.

# LABORATORY SERVICES

**LABORATORY  
SERVICES**



Laboratory Photos from Black and Veatch Special Projects Corp.



Newly Constructed RADDL 3 Facility in Tarlac City



Newly Constructed Anthrax Reference Laboratory in Region 2



Newly Constructed Regional Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory (RADDL) in Region 7

## A. Rationalization and Strengthening of DA Laboratory Services

As the Coordinating Agency for the rationalization and strengthening of DA laboratory services, BAFS recognized the importance of having an inventory of DA's laboratory services, testing equipment and list of compliances, and other related information, since the provision of comprehensive information about the laboratories promotes effective national planning.

BAFS developed and rolled out in September 2020, "BAFS Laboratory Online Profiling System", that provides a more efficient and systematized approach to data collection, organization, storage, reporting, and transmission. As of the end of November, over 96% (188 out of the 194) of the DA laboratories have been registered and profiled in the system.

In collaboration with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), BAFS has conducted policy and planning activities for the strengthening of the Integrated Laboratories. BAFS has consolidated the Plan and Budget Proposals of the Integrated Laboratories for FY 2022 and has updated the Public Investment Program for FY 2017-2022 for the Operation and Maintenance of the Integrated Laboratories.

In view of its role as Coordinating Agency for DA laboratories, BAFS was designated as DA's Project Management Office in a partnership project between the Department of Agriculture and the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (US-DTRA). The project, "Enhancement of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Capabilities at the Department of Agriculture Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories" (BSS Project) aims to strengthen the animal disease diagnostic laboratories of the Department. Through BAFS initiatives, the BSS Project activities was expanded to include the development of DA Integrated Laboratory Master Plan which provides guidelines in planning future constructions or renovations of DA Integrated Laboratories. The document is a complete notional master plan that incorporates international biorisk management standards and best practices for laboratories on animal and plant disease diagnostics, feeds and soils analyses.

As coordinating agency of the BSS project, BAFS participated in the development of a comprehensive multi-agency plan designed to facilitate the regulatory program of the Department. Titled, "BS&S Institutionalization: Plan of Actions and Milestones", the document aims to capture the goals and planned activities of the DA for the next five years to attain biosafety, biosecurity and biosurveillance culture within the Department.

## B. Plans for FY 2021

BAFS intends to further strengthen DA laboratories through the following activities for 2021.

1. Development of Strategic Plan for DA Integrated Laboratories. A 5-year plan for DA Integrated Laboratories shall be developed through technical services of experts in organization development. It intends to optimize the utilization and efficiency of DA laboratories and ensure the provision of accurate data and information for functions relevant to food safety regulation and enforcement and standards development, among others.
2. Development of a communication network between DA Laboratories, BAFS, and other DA Units. For 2021, BAFS shall implement activities that will set the norms and protocols of coordination and communication between and among DA national and regional integrated laboratories, BAFS as the standard-setting agency, and other DA units, recognizing that these contribute to operational and functional efficiency of laboratory services and development. The communication network will aid BAFS in its pursuit of developing the Management Information System (MIS) for standards development.

Further, BAFS aims to improve its science-based approach towards standards development through the following undertaking:

1. Risk Profiling/Assessments of Contaminants in Food. Two risk profiling activities will be completed by the Laboratory Services Division in 2021.
2. Development of Management Information System (MIS). The MIS will be developed by phases, and for 2021, BAFS is looking forward to the improvement of its current laboratory profiling system/database. Activities on planning and scoping to include a wider scientific database are also part of the initiatives in 2021 in support to standards development.
3. Scientific research to support standards development. Scientific research will also be conducted for at least 5 food safety-related Philippine National Standards (PNS). Data from the field data gathering, published literature and research/academe institutions will be processed and analyzed to support standards development.

# ORGANIC AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS

**ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE  
REGULATIONS**



## A. Registration of Organic Farms, Producers and Input Products

In 2020, BAFS has issued a total of 87 regulatory documents related to its registration of organic farms, organic input producers and products as indicated in Table 9. There are 14 organic farms registered with BAFS, 29 are registered organic soil amendments (OSA), and 17 organic biological control agents (OBCA). The total registered organic producers/products for 2020 is 60, which is more than 329% of the target of 14.

Table 9. Regulatory documents issued in 2020

Regulatory Document	Type	Product	Total	Target	Percent Accomplished
<b>Permits</b> Experimental Use Permit -(EUP) Import Permit – (IP) Export Permit – (EP) Organic Biocontrol Agent – (OBCA) Organic Soil Amendment (OSA)	EUP	OBCA	10	N/A	N/A
		OSA	3		
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>		
	IP	OBCA	15	18	150
		OSA	11		
	EP	OBCA	0		
		OSA	1		
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>27</b>		
<b>Registration</b> Certificate of Registration (COR) and Certificate of Product Registration (CPR)	Inputs	OBCA	17	14	429
		OSA	29		
	Farms	--	14		
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>60</b>		
<b>TOTAL (*excluding EUP)</b>			<b>87*</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>272</b>

## B. Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies

In 2020, there are three (3) officially accredited organic certifying bodies, namely: Control Union Philippines, Inc. (CUPI), OCCP-Inspection and Certification Services, Inc. (OCCP-ICSI), and the Negros Island Certification Services, Inc. (NICERT).

As part of the surveillance audit to these officially accredited organic certifying bodies (OCBs) to ensure their continued compliance with the guidelines for official accreditation, the BAFS conducted remote office audits, in lieu of the on-site office and witness audits, to Control Union Philippines, Inc. (CUPI), OCCP-Inspection and Certification Services, Inc. (OCCP-ICSI), and the Negros Island Certification Services, Inc. (NICERT) during the second semester of 2020.

In line with the findings during remote audits, the BAFS was able to issue two (2) certificates of continued official accreditation to CUPI and OCCP-ICSI as attestation that they were able to maintain their compliance with the regulations of BAFS. NICERT, however, as recommended by the team who conducted the remote audit and as sanctioned by the National Committee for Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies (NCOA-OCB), has been suspended for six (6) months. The suspension shall be lifted when they are able to do all the prescribed actions set by the NCOA-OCB and BAFS within the 6 months, otherwise, their official accreditation will be subject for revocation.

Moreover, as one of its annual activities, the Organic Agriculture Division (OAD) has conducted an online capability building for the NCOA-OCB and assessors. Assessors are those who conduct assessments to officially accredited OCBs during office and witness audits. The focus of the online capability building was on how to conduct audit remotely using online platforms through teleconferences, online review of documents, among others. The online event was participated by 17 participants where 47% (8) are members of the NCOA-OCB and the remaining 9 are technical personnel from the Bureau.

As part of the promotion of the official accreditation program, the OAD, through the Accreditation Section, has conducted an online webinar orientation for potential OCBs last October 14, 2020. The online webinar covered the official accreditation requirements and procedure, the organic certification scheme in the Philippines, and the overview of the newly approved national list of permitted substances for organic agriculture. The said webinar was attended by ninety (90) participants from various certifying bodies, agencies, academe, and interested individuals. The event was rated excellent by the participants in terms of the methodology, handling of questions and comments, presentation materials, and the training management team.



### C. Organic Agriculture Validation / Monitoring Activities

In 2020, thirty-six (36) monitoring activities, as shown in Table 10, were conducted to verify the continued compliance of BAFS-registered organic input producers' facilities and products such as the organic soil amendments (OSA) and organic bio-control agents (OBCA) with BAFS regulatory requirements. Due to the travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, these monitoring activities were carried-out remotely through the use of Information and Communication Technology mechanisms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and emails.

Based on the findings gathered during the remote monitoring activities, most of the non-compliances incurred by the input producers came from the unsupported claims indicated in their websites and product brochures, and incomplete details in their product labels. The input producers will correct these non-compliances in their suggested timeline, which will be checked by BAFS during the declared timeline or next monitoring activity.

In support of these monitoring activities, the OAVT from BAFS spearheaded its first online Capability Building Activity for the OAVT and Regional Organic Post-market Surveillance Team (ROPMST). This activity was conducted to equip the Bureau's partners with the knowledge and skills on basic auditing, remote audits, and dealing with organic producers.

Moreover, it is important that the OAVT from the DA Regulatory Agencies and ROPMST maintain their competence in ensuring the compliance of organic producers with BAFS regulatory requirements. This two-day activity was conducted via Zoom and participated by 6 OAVT members from the DA Regulatory Agencies, 8 OAVT members from the academe, 40 ROPMST members, and 7 personnel from BAFS. Based on the evaluation results, all participants were satisfied with the lectures and presentations. They also agreed that the activity was relevant, and the objectives of the activity were met satisfactorily.

Table 10. Organic Agricultural Facilities and Products Monitored and/or Inspected with Reports Issued in 2020

Type	Product	Total	Target	Percent Accomplished
Facility	OBCA	4	15	240
	OSA	15		
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>19</i>		
Product	OBCA	8		
	OSA	9		
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>17</i>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>240</b>

### D. Networking and Stakeholder Engagements

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic where mass gatherings and travels are restricted and limited, all physical seminar awareness planned by the Division was shifted to an online platform that led to the creation and establishment of the BAFS Online Academy.

In support of the regulatory functions of the Bureau, the BAFS Online Academy was launched on December 2, 2020. It is an online platform where stakeholders, particularly farmers and fisherfolks, can learn more about agriculture and fishery standards, and regulations relative to organic agriculture. In 2020, consequently, one (1) capability building and three (3) awareness seminars were conducted as follows:

1. Online Capability Building on the Rules and Procedures on the Provision of Certification Assistance for Organic Agriculture Entities;
2. Virtual Awareness on the Philippine National and the National List of Permitted Substances on Organic Agriculture;
3. Virtual Awareness Seminar on the Philippine National Standards for Organic Bio-control Agents; and
4. Online Risk-Based Inspection (RBI): Conducting RBI during pre-assessment or organic farm management.

### E. Other Activities Conducted Related to Organic Agriculture

November was proclaimed as the National Organic Agriculture Month or OA Month through Proclamation No. 1030 in 2015. The annual observance of the OA Month was since then aimed at promoting the practice of organic agriculture nationwide as a farming system and an effective tool for development, environmental conservation, and health protection of farmers, consumers, and the general public.

In the past five years leading to 2020, the OA Month was celebrated alongside the annual National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) held in a designated host region and attended by organic agriculture stakeholders from all corners of the Philippines. However, with the occurrence of the global COVID-19 pandemic, physical gatherings, including the NOAC, were suspended indefinitely.

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), as competent authority for organic agriculture, initiated a month-long series of activities to mark the 6th National Organic Agriculture Month. The activities aimed to boost awareness on organic agriculture advocacy, to educate on relevant standards and regulations, and to present the next generation an alternative sustainable way of farming.

The Bureau kicked-off the celebration of the OA Month with the call for submissions for the Organic Agriculture Fansign Contest, a social-media-driven photography competition that showcased entries from forty-two (42) stakeholders of organic agriculture. Each photo highlighted a snapshot of our stakeholders' farms, produce, and creative spirit. Moreover, all photos were posted in the BAFS Facebook page, prompting the hashtag "#OAMonth2020" in support of the advocacy.

On November 25, 2020, the BAFS Organic Agriculture Division hosted the Chikahan sa BAFS: OA Edition, a rendition of the Bureau's online talk show-styled presentation and discussion which covered the Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture and the regulations on organic agriculture.

This served as a platform for BAFS in-house experts to answer the queries of its online audience relative to the technicalities of organic agriculture.

The Bureau's activities for the 6th National Organic Agriculture Month culminated with the Tagisan sa BAFS: OA Edition, an online quiz contest featuring questions on relevant PNS, regulations, and trivia on organic agriculture. More than 40 individuals, students and professionals alike, were able to register, participate, and test their knowledge on organic agriculture in the live online quiz contest.

In connection to the organic agriculture (OA) month celebration, the Bureau, through its Organic Agriculture Division, facilitated the following activities aimed to promote and create awareness about OA:

1. Chikahan sa BAFS: OA Edition
2. Tagisan sa BAFS:OA Edition
3. Fansign Contest

In 2020, there are two (2) technical regulations that were subjected to revision and two (2) newly created regulations relevant to organic agriculture. In order to harmonize and streamline the registration process of organic soil amendments (OSA) and organic biocontrol agents (OBCA) with BAFS, related guidelines were revised. With the purpose of facilitating the fast revision of the positive list of permitted substances for organic agriculture as annexed in the relevant Philippine National Standards for organic agriculture, a technical regulation was created to establish a list, maintain such list, and provide guidelines for its amendment. Consequently, a national list of permitted substances for organic agriculture, in the form of technical regulation, was established. The list and details of the newly approved technical regulations is provided in Annex D.



## F. ASEAN Commitments

The BAFS is the national focal point of the Philippines to the ASEAN Experts Working Group for Organic Agriculture (EWG-OA). The Philippines currently serves as the Chair of the EWG-OA and lead country on specific deliverables under the Plan of Action (POA) for the ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture (2016-2020). In 2020, the BAFS rendered the following:

1. Submission of the project proposal entitled “Training of Trainers for the Implementation of the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture through National Training Programme for Organic Agriculture” for approval of the EWG-OA;
2. Hosting of the 4th Meeting of the EWG-OA last 15-26 June 2020 through email exchanges; and
3. Participation in the ongoing review of the draft ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Organic Agriculture, including the Virtual Workshop on ASEAN

MRA on Organic Agriculture on September 8, 2020.

During its 4th meeting, the EWG-OA adopted the new POA for the ASEAN Cooperation on Organic Agriculture for 2021 to 2025. The document has set three strategic thrusts and continuing activities which involves the following:

1. Development (updating) and promotion of the ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture (ASOA),
2. Alignment of national standards with the ASOA,
3. Regional harmonization of certification and accreditation system for organic agriculture,
4. MRA and conformity assessment arrangements for organic agriculture to facilitate integration into a single market and production base, and
5. Assistance to small scale farmers and SMEs to increase their competitiveness.

## G. Plans for CY 2021

In anticipation of the approval of the amendments to RA 10068 (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010) in 2021, the Bureau, through its Organic Agriculture Division, has identified the following initiatives:

1. Provide technical inputs in the development of Implementing Rules and Regulations of the amended Act;
2. Restructure the Organic Agriculture Division to accommodate the expansion of BAFS mandates to include the accreditation of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups;
3. Capacitate the internal workforce on PGS and relevant regulation;
4. Develop and update technical regulations to accredit and register PGS groups;
5. Develop training program and modules for capacity building activities necessary in

collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI);

6. Assist the National Organic Agriculture Board in developing mechanism for the provision of technical and financial assistance for PGS groups applying for accreditation;
7. Monitoring/inspection of registered organic operators (facilities and products);
8. Develop a database of organic agriculture farmers, operators and other concerned clientele for stakeholder partnerships; and
9. Deploy online application on the registration of organic producers and organic input products.



NVES, Nueva Vizcaya (Region II) • 2021 • Photo by Vicente D. Limsan, Jr.



**Annex A**  
**List of Approved Philippine National Standards for CY 2020**

No.	PNS/BAFS	Description	Commodity	Category	Date Approved
1	292-2020	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides on Selected Imported Crops	Crops	EF	January 17, 2020
2	119-2020	Sweet Cassava - classification and grading	Crops	EQ	May 6, 2020
3	150-2020	Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Cassava	Crops	CF	May 6, 2020
4	293-2020	Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control System	General	CF	May 6, 2020
5	294-2020	Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment	General	CF	May 6, 2020
6	295-2020	Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety Application by Governments	General	CF	May 6, 2020
7	66-2008; 2020	Milkfish - Fresh chilled and fresh frozen	Fisheries	EF	June 20, 2020
8	67-2008; 2020	Fish and fishery products – Tilapia - Live, fresh chilled and fresh frozen	Fisheries	EF	August 4, 2020
9	183:2016; 2020	Organic Soil Amendments	Organic Agriculture	EQ	August 20, 2020
10	296-2020	Good Animal and Husbandry Practice (GAHP) for Animal Welfare and Environmental Sustainability for Chicken and Duck	Livestock	CF	September 20, 2020
11	162-2015; 2020	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticide Residues in Milled Rice	Crops	EF	November 11, 2020
12	147-2015; 2020	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Hydrocyanic Acid in Cassava and Cassava Products	Crops	CF	November 23, 2020
13	297-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Shrimps and Prawns	Fisheries	CF	December 4, 2020
14	298-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Lobsters	Fisheries	CF	December 4, 2020
15	299-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Cephalopods	Fisheries	CF	December 4, 2020
16	300-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Fresh-chilled and Frozen Minced Fish	Fisheries	CF	December 4, 2020
17	46-2020	Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for the Sale of Fresh Agriculture and Fishery Products in Markets and Authorized Outlets	General	CF	December 10, 2020
18	301-2020	Four-Wheel Tractor - Specifications	Machinery and Structure	EQ	December 2020
19	302-2020	Four-Wheel Tractor- Methods of Test	Machinery and Structure	CQ	December 2020
20	303-2020	Rice Mill - Specifications	Machinery and Structure	EQ	December 2020
21	304-2020	Rice Mill - Methods of Test	Machinery and Structure	CQ	December 2020
22	305-2020	Slaughterhouse - Swine	Machinery and Structure	EQ	December 2020
23	306-2020	Slaughterhouse - Ruminants	Machinery and Structure	EQ	December 2020
24	307-2020	Establishment of Microbiological Criteria for Food	General	CF	December 2020

Legend: EQ - end-product and quality; EF - end-product and food safety; CQ - code of practice and quality; CF - code of practice and food safety PNS

# ANNEXES

**Annex B**  
**CY 2020 PNS disaggregated per classification**

Classification	Number	PNS/BAFS Code	PNS Title
Rice	1	162-2020	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticide Residues in Milled Rice
Fruits	1	292-2020	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides on Selected Imported Crops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apples</li> <li>• Citrus Fruits</li> <li>• Grapes</li> <li>• Longan</li> <li>• Lychee</li> <li>• Oranges</li> <li>• Pears</li> </ul>
Rootcrops	3	119-2020	Sweet Cassava - classification and grading
		150-2020	Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Cassava
		147-2020	Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Hydrocyanic Acid in Cassava and Cassava Products
Fisheries	6	66-2020	Milkfish – Fresh, chilled and fresh
		67-2020	Tilapia – Live, fresh, chilled and fresh frozen
		297-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Shrimps and Prawns
		298-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Lobsters
		299-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Cephalopods
		300-2020	Code of Practice for the Processing of Fresh-chilled and Frozen Minced Fish
Livestock	1	296-2020	Good Animal and Husbandry Practice (GAHP) for Animal Welfare and Environmental Sustainability for Chicken and Duck
Agriculture and Fishery Machinery	4	301-2020	Four-Wheel Tractor - Specifications
		302-2020	Four-Wheel Tractor- Methods of Test
		303-2020	Rice Mill - Specifications
		304-2020	Rice Mill - Methods of Test
Agriculture and Fishery Structure	2	305-2020	Slaughterhouse - Swine
		306-2020	Slaughterhouse - Ruminants
General	5	293-2020	Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control System
		294-2020	Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment
		295-2020	Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety Application by Governments
		46-2020	Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for the Sale of Fresh Agriculture and Fishery Products in Markets and Authorized Outlets
		307-2020	Establishment of Microbiological Criteria for Food
Organic Agriculture	1	183-2020	Organic Soil Amendments

**Annex C**  
**List of 2020 WTO-TBT Notifications Monitored**

**Request for Guidance:**

1. Argentine Food Code – Chapter XVI ‘Correctives and Processing Aids’ – Spices: Arts. 1226, 1226 bis, 1234, 1237 and 1242 (G/TBT/N/ARG/406)
2. Brazil Coconut Water
3. East African Standard on Rough (Paddy) Rice
4. Ecuadorian Technical Regulation RTE INEN 221 (1R) “Dry Fruits” (G/TBT/N/ECU/453 Rev1)
5. European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/25 on arrangements of imports for organic products from third countries (G/TBT/N/EU/101 Add.3)
6. European Commission Regulation EU 2018/848 on organic production and labelling
7. European Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production as regards its date of application and certain other dates referred to in that Regulation
8. European Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries
9. European Regulation Electronic Certification of 3rd country certifying bodies
10. EU Notification on Control Authorities and Control Bodies having Equivalence
11. India Prohibition of Mustard Oil (G/TBT/N/IND/179)
12. Japan Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants
13. Kenya Standard: Magnesium Sulphate Fertilizer - Specification
14. Kenya Standard: Compounded Pig Feeds Specification
15. Kenya Standard: Compounded Poultry Feeds Specification
16. Kenya Standard: Cattle Feeds Specification
17. Kenya Standard: Foliar Fertilizer - Specification
18. Kenya Virgin Coconut Oil
19. Korea’s Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources (G/TBT/N/KOR/919)
20. New Zealand Proposed Organic Product Bill
21. New Zealand Reducing the Impact of Plastic to Environment (G/TBT/N/NZL/103)
22. Mexico Standard on Honey Production and Specification
23. Peru Regulation on the Security of the Biotechnology for the Development of Activities with Modified Living Organisms for the Agricultural Sector
24. Singapore Draft TR Amending Sale Food Act Re: Partially Hydrogenated Oils
25. St Lucia Coconut Oil
26. Tanzania Standard - Eggplant
27. Tanzania Standard - Baby Corn Specification
28. Tanzania Standard on Dried Seaweeds
29. Tanzania’s Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Dried Aromatic Plants (G/TBT/N/TZA 447)
30. Tanzania coconut Milk and Cream (G/TBT/N/TZA/252)
31. Tanzania Code of Good Practice for Desiccated Coconut (G/TBT/N/TZA/336)
32. Tanzania Desiccated Coconut (G/TBT/N/TZA/335)
33. Tanzania Edible Coconut Oil (G/TBT/N/TZA/250)
34. Thailand Ministry of Public Health Notification on Edible Fats and Oils
35. Thailand withdrawal of hazardous substances containing Chlorpyrifos and Paraquat
36. United States Renewal and Removal of Substances USDA National List 2020 (TBT1619)
37. United States Renewal and Removal of Substances US National List 2019 (TBT/1534)
38. United States Standards on Bunched, Short Trimmed and Topped Carrots
39. United States Termination of Ten (10) US Voluntary and Consumer Standards
40. United States Non-Organic Tamarind Seed Gum as an Allowed Ingredient in US National List
41. Mr Melendez appeal for inclusion of Fish Amino Acid in PNS/BAFS National List
42. Uganda/East African Standard on Fresh Avocados – Specifications
43. UNECE Standard FFV-42 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of Avocados
44. Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization’s (GSO) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – Avocado



45. Mexico Non-industrialized Food Products for Human Consumption- Fresh Fruits Hass Avocado – Specifications
46. Mexico Fats and Oil – Avocado Oil
47. United States Standards for Grades of Florida Avocados
48. United States Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Clarification of the Avocado Grade Requirements

**Alert Notices:** Beta-cyfluthrin, Fenamiphos, Methiocarb, Mancozeb, Bromoxynil, Benfluralin, Benalaxyl, Fenpyrazamine, Etoxazo

#### **Request for Translation**

1. Argentine's 'Proyecto de Resolución Conjunta "Código Alimentario Argentino (CAA) - Capítulo XVI "Correctivos y Coadyuvantes" – Especies: Arts. 1226, 1226 bis, 1234, 1237, 1242"' (G/TBT/N/ARG/406)
2. Brazil Draft Resolution number 897, 17 August 2020 (G/TBT/N/BRA/1071)
3. China's animal feeding stuff
4. China's Registration and Administration of Overseas Manufactures of Imported Food (G/TBT/N/CHN/1522)
5. GSO Halal feedstuff
6. GSO Beef, buffalo, mutton, goat chilled and frozen
7. Mexican Official Standard PROY-NOM-235-SE-2019: "Tuna, bonito and pre-packaged preparations thereof - Description - Commercial information and test methods" (G/TBT/N/MEX/464),
8. Mexican Official Standard PROY-NOM-235-SE-2019: "Tuna, bonito and pre-packaged preparations thereof - Description - Commercial information and test methods" (G/TBT/N/MEX/464 Add. 1)
9. South Korea's 'Draft Partial Amendment of the Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources' (G/TBT/N/KOR/919).
10. Thailand Requirements for Production, Processes, Production Equipment, Storage and Labelling of Some Fruits or Vegetables (G/TBT/N/THA/490 Add. 2)
11. Thailand Code of Practice in Packing House Rambutan (G/TBT/N/THA/490)

#### **Other Reviewed TBT Notification**

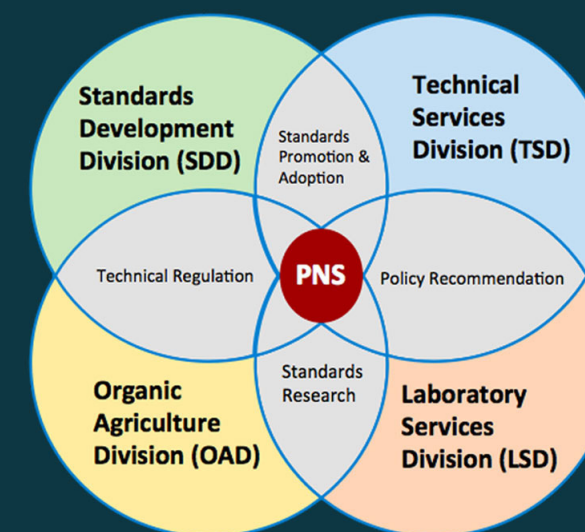
1. Amendment of the Notification Form Required to Submit Prior to Production of Composite Fertilizers,
2. Amendment of the Ministerial Ordinance on the Specifications of Feeds and Feed Additives
3. Brazil Resolution – RDC number 428, 7 October 2020, which regulates the application of the stocks of the active ingredient Paraquat
4. EPA's Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances
5. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 of 26 March 2020 laying down certain rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents needed for the retroactive recognition of periods for the purpose of conversion, the production of organic products and information to be provided by Member State
6. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control
7. European Union Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards requests for inclusion in the list of third countries recognised for the purpose of equivalence in relation to the import of organic products
8. European Union Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/25 amending and correcting Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries.

9. European Union Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/25 amending Regulation 1235/2008 clarified that the Certificate of inspection had to be issued before the consignment leaves the third country of export or origin.
10. European Union Icaridin biocide
11. EU TBT 723 Product Claims
12. Hemp Fiber
13. REGULATION (EU) 2018/848 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007
14. Revised Lacey Act
15. Rule on Establishing A Set of General Principles for Food Standards, Except Meat, Poultry and Eggs
16. SAUDI General Requirements for Novel Foods (G/TBT/N/SAU/1135)
17. Sweet Potato Code of Practice
18. Thailand Fish Oil
19. Temporary Exclusion of Vitamin A and Provitamin A in Palm Oils
20. US Agency Information Collection Activities on Food Labeling Regulations
21. US GAINS reports Thailand
22. United States revisions to the Federal Seed Act Regulations (G/TBT/N/USA/608 Rev2 Add1)
23. Downloaded and reviewing US 1437 seven (7) voluntary standards terminated

**Annex D**  
**Approved Technical Regulations Relevant to Organic Agriculture in 2020**

Department Circular	Title/Subject	Objective(s) or Salient Points	Date of Approval & Effectivity
Department Circular No. 04, Series of 2020	Guidelines on the Registration of Organic Soil Amendments (OSA) Producers and Products	It aims to provide streamlined requirements and procedures for the registration of OSA producers and products; and ensure that the certified OSA products being marketed are compliant with the current Philippine National Standards (PNS). It also removed the product efficacy trials requirement and Experimental Use Permit (EUP) application; lengthened the validity period of registration from 3 years to 5 years; and reduced the processing time for registration from 20 working days to 3 working days.	Approval Date: March 23, 2020 Effectivity Date: May 03, 2020
Department Circular No. 05, Series of 2020	Guidelines on the Registration of Organic Bio-control Agents (OBCA) Producers and Products	It aims to provide streamlined requirements and procedures for the registration of OBCA producers and products; and ensure that the certified OBCA products being marketed are compliant with the current Philippine National Standards (PNS). It also reduced the processing time for registration from 20 working days to 3 working days.	Approval Date: March 23, 2020 Effectivity Date: May 03, 2020
Department Circular No. 07, Series of 2020	Guidelines for the Establishment, Maintenance, and Amendment of the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture	It aims to establish the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture, and provide the procedure for the review and approval of permitted substances to the National List, thus, facilitating its faster amendment.	Approval Date: March 18, 2020 Effectivity Date: May 03, 2020
Department Circular No. 09, Series of 2020	National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture.	It provides the list and information of permitted substances and materials for organic agriculture, specifically, for use in organic crop production, organic animal production, organic aquaculture production, and organic food production.	Approval Date: July 1, 2020 Effectivity Date: July 24, 2020

## WE WORK AS ONE: Dynamics of BAFS



Standards and regulations are essential to ensure the health and safety of consumers. They also contribute to making products and services globally competitive.

As the sole standard-setting agency of the Department of Agriculture, BAFS is committed not only to develop Philippine National Standards (PNS) for the agri-fishery sector based on sound science, but also in ensuring that these standards are promoted and adopted as technical regulations by the DA regulatory agencies.

The BAFS has four (4) technical divisions, namely the Standards Development Division (SDD), Technical Services Division (TSD), Laboratory Services Division (LSD), and Organic Agriculture Division (OAD). The core function of the BAFS is the development of relevant PNS for the agri-fishery sector. The SDD's main function is on the development of the PNS while TSD is responsible to promote and ensure the adoption of the PNS developed by the SDD. The LSD supports PNS development through standards research and management of an information system for all scientific data collected. Similarly, the OAD supports PNS adoption by translating PNS to relevant organic agriculture regulations.



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



Copyright © 2021 DA-BAFS.  
All rights reserved.

