# TESDA CIRCULAR

| SUBJECT: | IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEM PROGRAM (IOFSP) | Page 1 of 7 pages<br>Number 047, series of 2020 |
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In the interest of the service, in line with the Food Sustainability and Security priority of the national government; the OPLAN TESDA Abot Lahat: TVET Towards a New Normal (Memorandum No. 158 s. 2020, dated 21 April 2020); and to contribute to the implementation of the Executive Order 114 (Balik Probinsiya Program), specifically on the Food Security and Agricultural Productivity, the **Integrated Organic Farming System Program (IOFSP)** shall be adopted/adapted under the following guidelines:

## I. Background/Rationale/Legal Basis:

1. NEDA Report dated March 19, 2020 on Addressing the Social and Economic Impact of the COVI-19 Pandemic which indicated "provision of support in ensuring food security, availability and affordability by capacitating communities to become food production sites";

2. OPLAN TESDA Abot Lahat: TVET Towards a New Normal (Memorandum No. 158 s. 2020, dated 21 April 2020), where agriculture remains to be TESDA's priority sector;

3. EO 114 (Institutionalizing the Balik Probinsiya, Bagong Pag-Asa as a Pillar of Balanced Regional Development, Creating A Council Therefor, and for Other Purposes) for "the promotion of value chain development to increase agriculture and rural enterprise productivity, increase farm incomes, and improve quality of life of farmers.

## II. Objectives of the IOFSP:

1. To provide the short-term and long term interventions to meet the challenges in food security and sustainability to make food readily available, accessible and affordable;

2. To promote commodity diversification to increase supply of nutritious food;

3. To promote adoption of IOFSP in rural and as well as urban agriculture for increased food production;

4. To provide alternative and additional livelihood programs for increased farmers' income and the communities in the **food value chain** as a whole; and

5. To systematically provide documentation on the implementation of the IOFSP to further improve the program implementation and contribute to the overall goal of food security and sustainability.

## III. Concept of the Integrated Organic Farming System:

### 1. Definition of IOFS

Developing more sustainable systems of agriculture will continue to be a priority and the adoption of Integrate Organic Farming System is a key part of making this happen. **Integrated Organic Farming System** (IFS) is a **whole farm management system** which aims to deliver more sustainable agriculture. It is based on the concept that "there is no waste and waste is only a misplaced resource" which become valuable material for another product. Wastes or by-products from each subsystem are used as inputs to other subsystems to improve the productivity and lower the cost of production of the outputs of the various subsystems with high degree of complimentary effects on each other; (Edwards et al. 1988, Gill et al. 2009). IFS is also called Integrated Biosystems or Integrated Agriculture.

2. **The objectives of the IOFS:**

   a. To integrate production systems such as dairy, poultry, livestock, fishery, horticulture, apiculture, sericulture, etc. with agriculture crop production as the base;

   b. To increase farm resources-use efficiency (land, labor, production/by-products) to increase farm income and gainful employment opportunities; and

   c. Maintain environmental quality and ecological stability by:

      - Reducing the use of chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides to provide chemical free produce and environment to the society;
      - Rejuvenation of system's productivity and achieve agro-ecological equilibrium

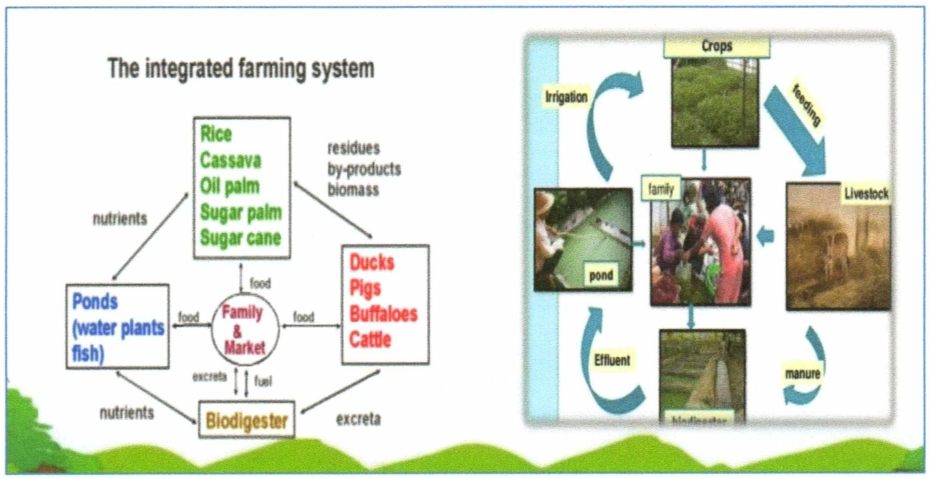
3. **Elements of IOFS**

   a. Watershed
   b. Farm Ponds
   c. Bio-pesticides - certain types of pesticides derived from such natural materials as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals
   d. Bio-fertilizers - a substance which contains living micro-organisms which, when applied to seeds, plant surfaces, or soil, colonize the rhizosphere or the interior of the plant and promotes growth by increasing the supply or availability of primary nutrients to the host plant
   e. Bio-gas - biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste such as methane and carbon dioxide
   f. Solar Energy
   g. Vermicompost making
   h. Green Manuring - Green manure crops absorb nutrients from the lower layer of soils and leave them in the soil surface layer when ploughed in for use by the succeeding crops, ex. legumes
   i. Rain Water Harvesting - is a technique used for collecting, storing and using rainwater for landscape irrigation and other uses

4. **Sample Types/Combination of IOFS**

   a. Crop-Livestock –Fishery farming system
   b. Crop – Livestock- Poultry-Fishery Farming System
   c. Crop-Aquaculture-Mushroom Farming System
   d. Crop-Aquaculture-Duckery Farming System
   e. Crop-Livestock_ Aquaculture -Vermicomposting Farming System
   f. Crop-Livestock- Apiary Farming System

5. **IOFS Framework**




(Ref: Integrated Farming System: https://www.slideshare.net/SabariNathan64/integrated-farming-system)

**III. Coverage of IOFSP:**

a. TESDA Technology Institutions (**TTIs**)
b. Integrated Organic Family/Community Farms
c. Farms schools with TESDA registered agriculture programs
d. Other farms/farm schools intending to deliver IOFS

**III. Budget Allocation:**

The budget in the implementation of the IOFSP shall be allocated from all TESDA Scholarship funds, except the RCEF-Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RSP).

**IV. Implementation Mechanics:**

To fast track the implementation of the program and in view of the policy on flexibility, agility and scalability in the delivery of the training programs, the IOFSP shall be guided by the following operational policies:

1. For Family Farms, and Other Farm Schools, the IOFSP shall registered with at least **four (4) integrated farm subsystem programs**, from the promulgated Training Regulations (TRs) and Competency Standards (CS) under the Agri-Fishery Mechanization sector and other support programs related to IOFSP subsystems/elements, depending on **applicable types/combination/models of IOFS** available in the locality/community.

2. For the TTIs, it shall serve as the **model/demonstration farm system** of the IOFSP. As such the elements of IOFSP shall be included in in the curriculum of the IOFSP to be registered with TESDA. These elements are:

   a. Watershed
   b. Farm Ponds

c. Bio-pesticides - certain types of pesticides derived from such natural materials as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals
d. Bio-fertilizers - a substance which contains living micro-organisms which, when applied to seeds, plant surfaces, or soil, colonize the rhizosphere or the interior of the plant and promotes growth by increasing the supply or availability of primary nutrients to the host plant
e. Bio-gas - biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste such as methane and carbon dioxide
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g. Vermicompost making
h. Green Manuring - Green manure crops absorb nutrients from the lower layer of soils and leave them in the soil surface layer when ploughed in for use by the succeeding crops, ex. legumes
i. Rain Water Harvesting - is a technique used for collecting, storing and using rainwater for landscape irrigation and other uses

3. A sample of an IOFSP lay-out for a 500 square meter lot is attached as **Annex A**.

4. The IOFSP shall be delivered in competency-based flexible, blended and other applicable training modalities depending on the situation in the community. Thus, **the multiple entry and exit** principle of the competency based training (CBT) shall be adopted. The number of enrollees **shall not be fixed to a minimum requirement of 20 enrollees per batch** before the training program starts. Likewise, the principle of "recognition of prior learning (RPL)", shall be recognized by the trainers/institutions/farm schools offering the IOFSP.

5. Assessment shall be implemented per competency acquired (CoC or full NC) by the learner;

6. A simplified application and UTPRAS registration requirements shall be:

   a. TESDA Technology Institutions (**TTI**s)
      - with available lot of at least 500 sq. meter as a model/demonstration mini-organic integrated farms;
      - IOFS Curriculum with the elements mentioned in item 2a-i;
      - Site Lay-out based on actual inspection of training facilities, tools, equipment, supplies and materials
      - List of qualified Trainers in accordance with the requirements of the TRs/Cs. Learning Facilitators may be hired to complement the existing capacity of the TTIs in the delivery of other subsystems beyond the expertise of the TTIs.

      *Note: TTIs can conduct training in the community/designated training farm laboratories of the Barangay or Family Farms to implement the IOFSP.*

   b. Farms schools with TESDA **registered agri-fishery programs**:
      - Letter of Intent/Application to offer IOFSP
      - IOFS Curriculum with at least four (4) subsystem of the IOFSP
      - Site Lay-out based on actual inspection of training facilities, tools, equipment, supplies and materials
      - List of qualified Trainers in accordance with the requirements of the TRs/CS

c. Other existing farms/farm schools intending to deliver IOFS, without TESDA registered programs
   - Letter of Intent/Application to offer IOFSP
   - Corporate documents/Lot ownership
   - IOFS Curriculum with at least four (4) subsystem of the IOFSP
   - Site Lay-out based on actual inspection of training facilities, tools, equipment, supplies and materials
   - List of qualified Trainers in accordance with the requirements of the TRs/CS

7. **Project proposals** shall be submitted by the TESDA Provincial and Regional Directors, for approval of the Director General. The budget allocation for the project proposal shall conform with **the latest promulgated scholarship costings** for the **subsystems packaged** by the proponent training providers/farm schools.

## V. Target Beneficiaries:

1. Farmer-beginners who are community members in urban and rural areas who would like to be engaged in IOFSP;
2. Farmers who would like to diversify their products;
3. Out of School Youth;
4. Overseas Filipino Workers;
5. Indigenous Peoples;
6. Rebel Returnees; and
7. Other individuals who would like to be engaged in agri-fishery livelihood and agri-fishery business enterprises.

## VI. Distribution Scheme of Scholarship Grants.

1. The distribution of the Scholarship Grant Certificates (SGCs) shall follow the standard operating procedure on the Issuance of the SGCs (TC No. 11) The PO shall distribute the IOFSP Scholarship Grant to the farm schools/training providers after the approval of the project proposal.

## VII. Multiple Availment

1. Multiple availment of IOFSP scholars shall be allowed provided that the training shall be availed one at a time and not simultaneously.

## VIII. Support Services

1. For sustainability of the IOFSP, the Regional/Provincial Offices shall link the beneficiaries with other government agencies at the local level, such as the DTI, DA, DAR, CDA, Land Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines, the LGUs and other NGAs as deemed necessary. The support services are in areas of marketing, credit, technology, seed and livestock, farm machineries and equipment and other technical assistance to ensure the sustainability of the program.
2. The support services are anchored on various convergence programs of the government such as the Balik Probinsiya Program, among others.

## IX. Monitoring

1. The Office of the Deputy Director General for TESD Operations (ODDG-TESDO) thru the Regional Operations Management Office (ROMO) and Scholarship Management Division (SMD) and the

Financial Management Services (FMS) shall monitor and evaluate the physical and financial status of program implementation based on the existing monitoring and reporting system of TESDA (the OPMRS + , BEDS and BFARs and the DBM existing and reporting system);

2. Monitoring of beneficiaries shall be included in the TESDA Training Management Information System (T2MIS) in the same manner as the monitoring of all scholarship programs of TESDA;

3. The Planning Office shall conduct an Impact Evaluation Study (IES) annually to determine the achievement of the following program outcomes/performance indicators:

   a. Increased number of training providers/farm schools delivering the IOFS;
   b. Increased number of farmers engaged in IOFS;
   c. Increased income of farmer beneficiaries;
   d. Increased number of support services availed by the farmer-beneficiaries

**X. Administrative and Financial Procedures (Please refer to TESDA Circular No. 11, series of 2020)**

1. **Payment to the Farm Schools identified shall be made upon submission of the following required documents**:

   - Billing Statement of training provider;
   - Farmers' Profiles encoded in the T2MIS
   - Daily Attendance Sheet (for the duration of the training);
   - Billing Statement of Assessment Center and certified true copy of RWAC for payment of assessment fees, as applicable; and
   - TESDA copy of the RESP Scholarship Grant duly signed by the beneficiaries and concerned officials.

This Circular shall take effect as indicated.

**SEC. ISIDRO S LAPEÑA, PhD, CSEE**
Director General

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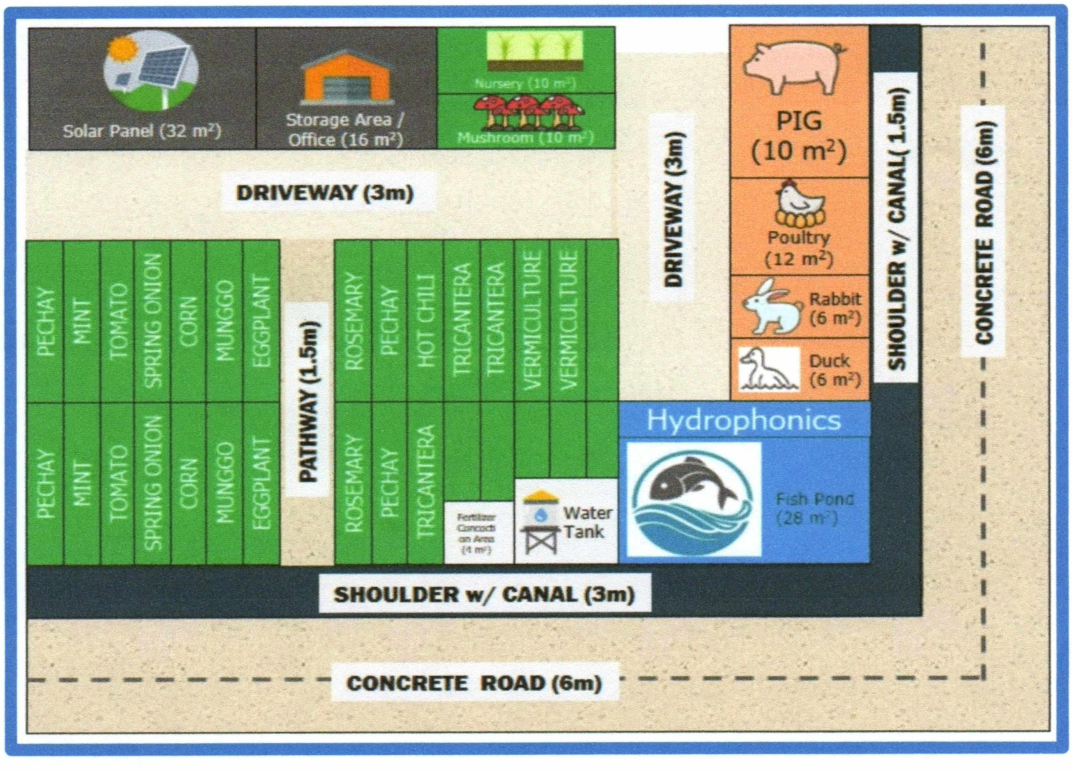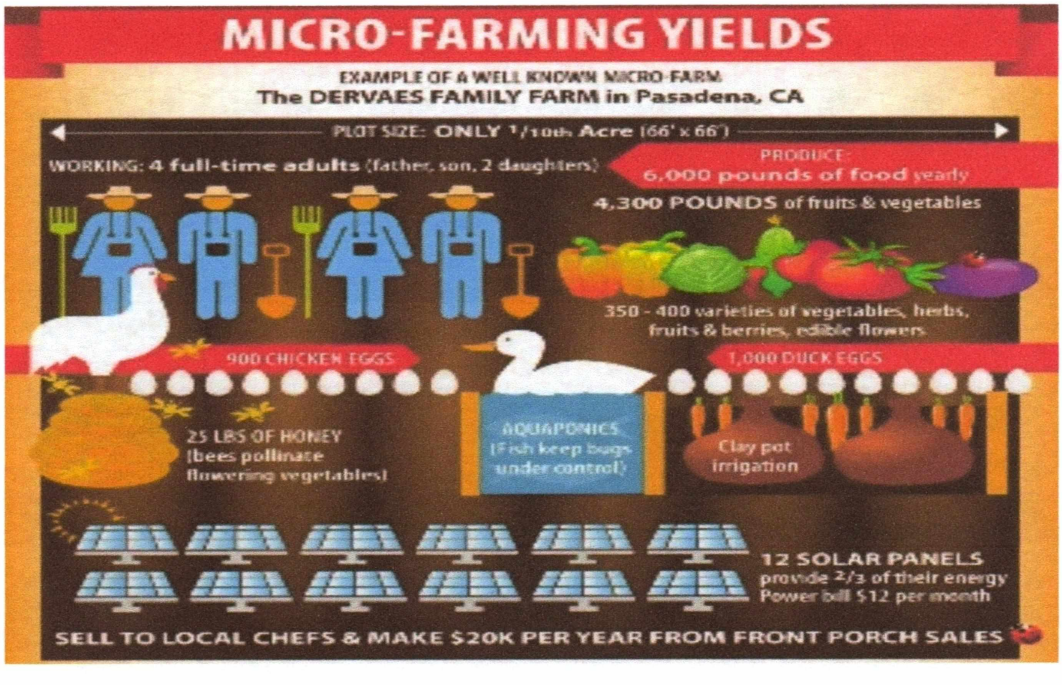
**ANNEX A**