

## **GUIDELINE ON THE FUNDING OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COMPONENT PROJECT ON FOOD PRODUCTION**

### **I. Rationale**

In the Global Work Plan, the Programme's specific objective deals with enabling upland communities to address their subsistence needs. This food security concern was included in the SAD component's overall approach. The initial project proposals submitted by the Provincial Project Offices include food production projects as initial entry activities to be funded by grant. Funds will be sourced from the budget line for beneficiary training (Budget Line 30.11) since the inputs requested from the program are seed and planting materials to be distributed during training.

This guideline intends to help the Provincial Project Offices and LGUs work out the grant funded food production projects proposed by the upland farming communities.

### **II. Overall Policy**

The food production project emanates from the community as a felt need and identified during the PRA assessment process. For the programme, this is an entry strategy- trust building activity for the community to undertake watershed development activities. The food production project is included in the CWP.

1. As an entry activity in the community, an informal group can act as a proponent and would not necessarily require and wait for a formal organization to form. The project can be coursed through the existing barangay/sitio organization and endorsed by an existing agriculture committee.
2. Food production projects funded through grant are on a one time basis. These discourage the occurrence of repeat beneficiaries. There are no 2<sup>nd</sup> line beneficiaries since all qualified beneficiaries have been identified through the Wealth/Food Sufficiency Ranking process. However, if there are other community members wishing to put up their own food production project, the community can assist by allocating existing seed and planting materials stored in its communal seedbank for dispersal.
3. In cases where farmers have already made their farm plan, the food production area should be indicated in the farm lay-out and related to the other farm production components.
4. The food production area should include soil and water conservation measures like hedgerows and grass strips planted along contours or as windbreaks/boundary crop.
5. As an implementation strategy, a seedbank should be created either for individual or communal use to supply future needs for planting materials.

### **III. Who would qualify**

1. The community decides who qualify through the Wealth/Food Sufficiency Ranking process. The farming households categorized as food deficit should be prioritized. The main recipient and basis for distribution of inputs would be the individual farming household represented by the head of the family.
2. The food production project will be done on a per individual household. However sub-activities like the seed bank can be implemented collectively at the community level.

#### **IV. What are the inputs that will be supported by the Programme**

1. The programme's input would consist of seed or planting materials for staple crop, vegetables and hedgerow; technical trainings and access to cross-visits/field trips. Fertilizers are only appropriated for the staple crop to boost initial production but it is expected that beneficiaries would have the initiative to produce their own through composting and manure utilization. The food production project emphasize organically grown foods without pesticide inputs for the reason that pesticides:
  - o can contaminate/poison the fresh food; the farm household would be reluctant to eat
  - o are usually used for commercial scale production of high value crops
  - o contradicts the thrust on environment friendly technologies
  - o And considering that the project is on a "one time basis"; dependency on expensive chemical inputs like pesticides is discouraged.

The use of pesticides also mean that the food crops are not suitable to the present conditions of the area thus they cannot be propagated easily.

2. The inputs for the food production project should be enough for and not exceed 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> per farming household. The project should prioritize staple/food crops and not commercial or high value crops that do not address the food security concern of the farmer household. A typical lay-out for the 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> plot consist of:
  - o Up to 700 m<sup>2</sup> planted to the staple crop like corn or upland rice
  - o 100 to 150 m<sup>2</sup> for rootcrops
  - o 100 to 150 m<sup>2</sup> for vegetables
  - o 100 m<sup>2</sup> hedgerow or soil/water conservation measure if food plot is located on slopes
  - o fishpond (if there is sufficient water source) with a maximum area of 200m<sup>2</sup>

In case of fish production projects, the inputs to be supplied are only fingerlings for an area not more than 200 m<sup>2</sup> and a maximum stocking rate of 3 fingerlings per m<sup>2</sup>.

3. The choice of types of vegetables and food crops to be planted would consider the nutrition balance and ease of growing. As much as possible these should be planted directly and not necessarily require seedbed growing. These food crops are of the open pollinated and locally grown varieties. In this way, it can help in the seed propagation of planting materials for the next cropping.
4. The total cost for the inputs should not go beyond P 1,000.00 per farm household beneficiary. The inputs to be provided are those identified to be lacking in the community.

#### **V. What are the inputs that can be provided by the LGUs as counterpart**

1. Training inputs built in the project can consist of AT coaching on topics like organic farming, food nutrition and preparation and seed/planting material multiplication and storage. Technical assistance can be provided by UDP for specialized topics not within the LGUs' expertise.
2. The LGU team can commit to the food production project its own material inputs like seeds and planting materials provided for by their regular dispersal projects.

## **VI. What are the roles and responsibilities of the beneficiaries**

1. The proponents should be active participants in community activities specially those that require collective decision making like prioritization during wealth/food ranking.
2. As proponents of the food production project, the individual household beneficiaries should see to it that:
  - ~~///~~ The maintenance for food plots can be done through collective labor of all the household members like regular watering, weeding, cultivation, trimming of hedgerows, and composting. Maintenance of food plot should not take a big proportion of the farm household work devoted to other productive activities.
  - ~~///~~ Seed production is undertaken either individually or through a communal seed bank to insure that there dependence on external inputs is lessened or even no longer necessary.
  - ~~///~~ Other sustainable means in support of food production is practiced through: organic farming and waste management through integration of farm activities like livestock raising.
  - ~~///~~ Proper utilization and harvesting be done on the fod plots and fishpond so that these can be self sustaining on a longer period.
3. The proponents/beneficiaries will include in their proposals the proper lay-out of their food plots. It should indicate where the soil and water conservation measures are located in relation to the other farm components in an over-all farm plan scheme.