

**Davao March 2, 2005**

**Draft Guidelines on Labor Based Enhancement of Soil and Water Conservation to be Contracted Out to UBAs**

Rationale:

1. Urgency of implementing extensive soil and water conservation in the upland communities considering the massiveness and frequency of erosion problems- rills, gullies, landslides and the destructive practices of kaingin and illegal logging. The critical areas for SWC rehabilitation under this arrangement are:
  - a. Farm areas located in critical but suitable slopes.
  - b. Farms and denuded slopes situated on top of spring water sources
  - c. Roadsides and riverbanks prone to erosion problems
  - d. Denuded “vacant areas” which could threaten/affect neighboring farms with erosion problems
  - e. **Absolutely no existing forest/forest pockets should be converted into agricultural lands**
2. The initiatives done through DFS are not enough. Need to involve not only individual farmer but the broader community for faster and effective adoption of SWC. This can utilize the traditional “Bayanihan/Dagyaw/Alayon” mobilization system.
3. How to fast track the implementation of SWC.
  - a. Through the DFS modeling approach
  - b. Through the Learning Sites and FTGs
  - c. Through our regular community based agriculture extension system (MAO, AT, BEW, FTG, learning site)
  - d. Through a labor based contract to a registered and capable UBA that would provide it short and long term incentives.
4. How to go about the SWC labor contract
  - a. The UBA will organize a SWC task force to be headed by the BEW and FTG who are trained on SWC and STOP techniques and evaluated as capable to ensure proper implementation in line with these guidelines. **In activity involving rehabilitation of river or creek bank and planting forest trees in vacant steep areas, the Chair of the Barangay Council Committee on Environment shall be involved in identifying the priority areas.**
  - b. The task force will identify and prioritize farms requiring “rehabilitation” on SWC. The priorities would be:
    - i. Areas which have urgent concerns on the “rehabilitation” or enhancement of the soil and water conservation measures like those with imminent danger of massive soil erosion.
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> batch DFS farms in case these farms are not yet up to the mark
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> batch DFS farms in case these farms are not yet up to the mark
    - iv. Next in line and neighboring communities expressing interest in DFS and SWC measures.
5. Tasks Involved for UBA coached by BEW/FTG/AT and ICRAF Facilitator
  - a. Determine appropriate SWC approaches through the STOP methodology. The land unit prescription would designate areas applicable for contouring (**with barriers**), tree planting and zero tillage.
  - b. For cropping areas where contouring is applicable, the laying out of contour lines will be done using the A-frame and staking.
  - c. Establishment of the appropriate SWC measure such as:

- i. Hedgerows of leguminous shrubs- Rensonii, Flemingia, Ipil-ipil, Madre de Cacao, Calliandra, Indigofera, etc.
  - ii. Grass strips- indigenous (**NVS technology**) or known forage grasses- Setaria, Napier, Guinea or Vetiver. **When NVS barriers are to be established, these should be enriched with leguminous shrubs and/or trees.**
  - iii. Pole barriers or bamboo slats
  - iv. Stone walls and ripraps
  - v. Bench terraces utilizing ploughing, picks, shovels to side cut slopes.
  - vi. Cover cropping, ring weeding, mulching and eyebrow techniques for tree planting
6. Work Arrangements
  - a. Large group under UBA contract following the Bayanihan system
  - b. Small sub-groups of 5 members composed of neighboring farmers or relatives butter under contract of registered and capable UBA
  - c. The contracts would be between UBA, B/MLGU /UDP
7. Tools Required
  - a. A-frame
  - b. Shovel
  - c. Picks
  - d. Bolos
  - e. Plough and carabao
  - f. **Slope indicator**
  - g. **Meter stick**
8. Other materials required:
  - a. Hedgerow and forage material seeds
  - b. Vetiver planting materials
  - c. Leguminous tree cuttings e.g. madre de cacao
  - d. Other forage legume and grass materials e.g. forage peanuts
9. How to go about the establishment of SWC once the group is formed
  - a. The BEW together with the farmer would map the area through the STOP method. **The two must agree on the map and on the SWC measures that have to be established.**
  - b. The 1<sup>st</sup> in line farmer's area laid out and contoured by the group.
  - c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and succeeding farmers' areas are laid out and contoured with the first farmer/s providing assistance.
  - d. The material inputs like hedgerow seeds, cuttings and planting materials will not be released until all designated farms are laid out and contoured.
  - e. Payment of wages and inputs per out put basis (pakyaw system)
  - f. A food for work arrangement could also be considered specially in areas where it is the preferred mode e.g. tribal lands
  - g. For areas suitable for bench terracing, the hiring of carabao power could be encouraged to side cut clay soils
  - h. Technical Assistance, not available with the community extension network or ICRAF, can be provided by PMO e.g. in the case of terracing we can hire farmers from Antique to give the technical expertise.
10. Outputs:
  - a. Actual outputs in terms of HAs rehabilitated or meters contoured/hedgerows put up, HAs terraced etc. will have to be specified in the contract. This will be basis for determining the contract price. To find out cost involved the first contract budgets may be on trial and error basis. The costs of Labor as basis for determining the contract price would be

- i. 1 man day = P 100/day
- ii. 1 man + carabao day = P 150/day
- iii. 500 to 1000 linear meters of contour line P 500 to P 1000 (pakyaw) – **with hedgerows or barriers?**

11. Source of Funds:

- a. Barangay LGU equity
- b. Municipal LGU equity
- c. Provincial LGU equity
- d. UDP funds

12. Funding schemes

- a. Inputs of materials- seedlings, seeds
- b. Food for work
- c. Monetary

I suggest we also should try out the same system as we will pilot in the 10 municipalities whereby the MAO will take care of our payments

**For comment**