

Updated Guideline on the Expanded Diversified Farming Systems Activity

The findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review Mission affirmed the relevance of the Diversified Farming System modeling strategy. The MTR considers the Model Farm Strategy as an appropriate response to the aim of the Programme towards securing food production and increase income by upland farmers by having a diversified and on-farm integrated farming system that also safeguard the watershed resource base. As a result of findings during the recently conducted DFS and Agriculture Extension Assessment, a revision of the DFS guideline is in order to facilitate the implementation of such proposals. To distinguish the difference between the old and new guideline, the original contents are italicized while amendments are added below.

The original content and areas for amendments (as underlined) are as follows:

Content of the 1st DFS Guideline	Agreed Amendments and Additions
<p><i>1. Initially, the modeling activity intends to have <u>5 farmer cooperators at the sitio level.</u> Considering that the barangay and sitio based model farms are already functioning, there would be an addition of 4 more cooperators at the sitio level. Around 20 DFS farms are expected at the barangay level or approximately 80 farms established per municipality. For every model farmer, the development activities and inputs will be focused in his/her <u>existing 1 hectare cropping area</u> and that no new area should be opened/cleared just for this purpose. These should clearly appear in the farm plan of proposed candidate for DFS. A simple project implementation agreement between the barangay LGU, municipal LGU, UDP and each DFS farmer cooperator will be signed and will be the basis for the modeling activity.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected downline cooperators for the second batch would not necessarily be 5 farmers but should not be less than two for DFS replication to be effective. • DFS inputs will only be invested in farm areas located on the minimum required slopes for cropping (55% gradient or an angle of 30° and below) following the STOP recommendations. • A field assessment will be conducted by a team composed of PPO specialists, ATs, BEWs and even 1st Batch cooperators to validate the readiness of the 2nd Batch candidates and appropriateness of their DFS areas specially on the slope considerations.
<p><i>2. The expansion of modeling activities could immediately start within the barangays deemed by the PPOs as outstanding. It would also include the following criteria:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Only sitios with functioning UCOs could start DFS expansion activity.</i> <i>b. A barangay extension worker/ technician is present and has been appointed by the barangay council to work for three years and provided for with incentives</i> <i>c. The barangay extension worker has received trainings on community organizing; soil and water conservation measures and crop diversification by the Municipal Support Officer and Municipal Project Team.</i> <i>d. The model farm cooperators will be endorsed and supervised by the barangay council and this is embodied in a resolution.</i> 	<p>No amendment or additions.</p>

Content of the 1 st DFS Guideline	Agreed Amendments and Additions
<p>3. Selection criteria for new cooperators.</p> <p>a. <i>The selection criteria will still follow the set of farming systems criteria adopted before and could include the results of PPO initiated innovations like soil and water conservation contests. <u>The modeling activity should not start from scratch i.e. there is already an effort towards diversification; with initial soil and water conservation measures set up and also some fruit and forest trees established.</u></i></p> <p>b. <i>The candidate's good standing in his SLG/FSC. He should have <u>at least P500.00 in savings or capital build up (at least P500.00) and attends meetings regularly.</u></i></p> <p>c. <i>The candidate should have an LGU endorsed farm plan which and shows good potential for coming up with a farm based enterprise.</i></p> <p>d. <i>He/she have <u>participated in the Entrefarm course and have passed with good marks.</u></i></p> <p>e. <i>The candidate farmer <u>has been exposed to ICRAF sites and outstanding UDP supported model farms.</u></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate cooperator should have a farm which is accessible and preferably show a range of land units- hill crests, ridges, small valleys where the following changes under DFS can be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Substituting corn-based mixed farming on steep slopes with perennial crops, or agroforestry with vegetative soil and water conservation techniques – Relocating the production of highly erosive crops (e.g. corn, peanuts or root crops) to the limited areas of gentle slopes and adopt improved technologies to compensate for the reduced area under cultivation – Terracing fallow land with clay-textured soils over 100 cm deep, on slopes below 45%, through a combination of grass strips and contour ploughing – Converting unproductive cogon grassland to fruit tree orchards (slopes 5%) – Intensify vegetable production by improving backyard systems or land where supplementary gravity fed watering/small irrigation is possible • If the proposed cooperator is a FSC member he should be in good standing. • The farmers show good Entrefarm skills which can be indicated by the presence of improved farm plans and farm recording. • The candidate has visited and been exposed to sustainable agriculture technologies in nearby DFS demo farms.
<p>4. <i>The amount of inputs that will be allocated per cooperator will not exceed P6,000.00 covering 2 hectares. <u>The minimum area to be covered by the modeling activity will be 1 hectare and the cooperator will be strongly encouraged to expand specially his soil and water conservation measure to cover the whole cultivated area. The inputs would basically consist of planting materials that would address the short, medium and long term components of the farming system. Thus aside from fruit and forest trees, the farm set-up would highlight a balanced combination of cash, annual and perennial crops.</u></i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of planting materials and other farm inputs provided by the Programme should not exceed more than P 3,000.00 per cooperator. The LGUs can supplement their own inputs base on their capacity and availability of material inputs from their existing projects e.g. Municipal Nursery Seedlings Dispersal and Plant Now Pay Later Projects. • The DFS area would at least be 1 hectare and is located in suitable slopes for upland agriculture (as elaborated in the STOP recommendations). Level sites situated in valleys and plateaus also qualify as long as these are within the proposed DFS site.

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<p>5. <i>For transparency reasons and empowerment of model farmers, procurement of seedlings will be jointly done by the MSO or PPO specialist, the AT, the barangay extension worker and the model farm cooperators.</i></p>	<p>All members should have access to quotations and be physically present during the procurement to check the quality of the seedlings. When ordering seedlings, contracts should specify the following requirements for seedlings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seedlings should be hardened off by gradually exposing them to full sunlight, reducing the watering regime, and stopping the application of fertilizer. This should be done at least four weeks before transplanting in the field to harden off the seedlings. • Seedlings for farms with drought-prone sand and sandy loam soils should be done only few months only, i.e. they have active taproots, and have a smaller leaf area to reduce transpiration rates. • Seedlings are to be lifted up and carried by the root ball, not the stem. • For large orders, a discount should be given to offset those seedlings damaged during the transportation from the nursery.
<p>6. <i>As much as possible, the farmer cooperators are encouraged to source out their own forest tree seedlings from indigenous or existing commercial species in the area. As their counterpart, the LGUs will provide forest tree seedlings produced from the municipal nurseries. The Programme will provide fruit tree planting materials to complement existing trees grown in the area at an acceptable ratio of 1 fruit tree for every forest tree established (50/50). <u>Fruit tree seedlings inputs given by UDP shall not exceed 30 seedlings per farmer and should follow specifications set out for quality seedling materials e.g. at least 3 feet high and proven suitable to agro-ecological conditions of the area.</u></i></p>	<p>As long as procurement follow the hardening requirements and specifications set for both regular and large planting materials, the number of fruit trees can exceed 30 seedlings so long as these are within the P 3,000.00 worth of grant inputs per farmer.</p>

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7. <i>The training for the new cooperators will be the responsibility of the PPO with the SAD specialist taking the lead. He will be assisted by the MSO, AT and barangay extension worker BEW. Aside from the orientation on farming systems development objective and methodologies, topics pertaining to the step by step establishment of DFS will be done at the farmer cooperator's area using the farmer field school (FFS) approach. The FFS will be guided by the calendar of activities defined in the DFS farm plan which means that the schedule of trainings should coincide with the various stages of the diversified farming activity. An sample outline for FFS is shown below:</i>	Once the project proposal is approved, the LGU ATs can start conducting the trainings on DFS and Slope Treatment Oriented Practices. The 1 st Batch cooperators can join either as resource persons or as participants for re-orientation.

<i>Topics/Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i># of Hours</i>
* Slope Treatment Oriented Farming Practices for Specific Slopes and Soil Types as Effective SWC	Day 1 AM (1 st Wk)	2 Hours
<i>Establishment of contour lines using the A- Frame</i>	Day 1 AM (1 st Wk)	2 Hours
<i>Land preparation</i>	Day 2 AM (1 st Wk)	3 Hours
<i>Planting of hedgerow materials, delineation of NVS</i>	Day 1 AM (2 nd Wk)	1 Hour
<i>Planting of improved crop varieties; importance of crop rotation, intercropping of legumes etc.</i>	Day 2 AM (2 nd Wk)	3 Hours
<i>Inter- planting of fruit tree crops</i>	Day 3 AM (2 nd Wk)	3 Hours
<i>Fertilizer application/ relevance of organic farming</i>	Day 1 AM (6 th Wk)	3 Hours
<i>Maintenance, Harvesting, Processing, Marketing etc</i>	<i>To be determined</i>	
<i>Field Day/Recognition Day</i>	<i>To be determined</i>	

* Amendment to Importance of SWC Measures

No more amendments and additions included beyond this point.

8. *Basically, the model farm cooperators will do coordinative work with the UBAs and UCOs. They will be monitored by their respective UCOs, while the 1st batch model farmer will report the overall status of the activity to the UBA and bgy. council. The MSO will report to UDP management on the progress of the expanded DFS activity.*

For the existing batch of DFS cooperators, the inputs they received can be repaid by helping the new batch establish their DFS farms.

8. *The roles and responsibilities of the cooperator are defined in the project implementation agreement. Ultimately the cooperator by his example, should facilitate the cascading/multiplication of the modeling activity to other farmers down the line. This means that the inputs and technology he acquired can be shared with others. The cooperator's farm should also be considered first choice for venues during farmer field schools and field visit activities.*

9. The supervision and monitoring of the DFS activity will be part of the UCOs and UBAs' responsibilities. These organizations can require the DFS cooperator to report the progress of his activity during regular meetings. The BEWs and ATs will also be part of the monitoring team to look at the DFS activity.

10. A simple monitoring form containing at most 5 sections/activities will also be used to facilitate documentation. A sample form is shown below:

STATUS REPORT

Farmer Cooperator:

As of February 28, 2003

Location:

Total Area of Model Farm:

<i>Activities Conducted (w/ dates)</i>	<i>Inputs Received (to include quantity and quality at delivery)</i>	<i>Status of Inputs (e.g. number surviving) Revisions etc.</i>	<i>Results e.g. income generated, quantity seed produced etc.</i>	<i>Issues/ Problems and Recommendations e.g. follow up activities</i>

11. The model farms can be prioritized for any future techno demo activities that would come in as a result of other component activities e.g. infrastructure- small scale irrigation; Marketing and Enterprise Development- pilot EntreFarm Activities; Rural Finance Services- prototype UDLF funded business etc.; and collaboration with other institutions- PhilRice; GEM; ICRAF and even agricultural supply companies.