

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 481, December 27, 2005 ]**

**PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS , it is a declared policy of the State to promote agriculture development, conserve environmental resources and promote social equity and product access to foreign and domestic markets of agriculture and fishery commodities;

WHEREAS , the development of Organic Agriculture nationwide as a farming scheme enhances global competitiveness, environmental integrity, food security and safety, and increases productivity and alleviate poverty;

WHEREAS , the State recognizes the potential of Organic Agriculture in increasing value-added in agricultural export and local consumption products;

WHEREAS , the stakeholders have recognized the potential of certified organic farming as a way to lower input costs, utilization of local raw material inputs, conserve non-renewable resources, mainstream into high-value markets and improve farm income;

WHEREAS , the stakeholder of Organic Agriculture have manifested their strong interest to aggressively promote organic agriculture with support from the government on the research, development and extension activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO , President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Objectives* . – This Executive Order shall have the following objectives:

- (a) promote organic agriculture as a farming scheme especially in rural farming communities;
- (b) forge effective networking and collaboration with the stakeholders involved in the production, handling, processing and marketing of organic agriculture products;
- (c) guarantee food and environmental safety by means of an ecological approach to farming; and
- (d) ensure the integrity of organic products through the approved organic certification procedures and organic production, handling and processing standards.

SEC. 2. *The National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP)*. – The Department of Agriculture National Organic Agriculture Program shall focus on, but not limited to:

- (a) Regulations and Guidelines
- (b) Certification and Accreditation
- (c) Market Promotion and Networking

- (d) Organic Information for Producers, Handlers and Processors
- (e) Research, Development and Extension

SEC. 3. *The National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB)* . – There is hereby constituted the National Organic Agriculture Board, hereinafter referred to as the NOAB. The NOAB shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as Vice-Chair;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Health as Vice-Chair;
- (d) The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
- (e) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and
- (f) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology.

There shall be appointed to the NOAB seven (7) representatives engaged in the practice of organic agriculture. Such representatives may be taken from, but not limited to the recommended sectors listed below:

- a) Three from the private sector who operate an organic farm; organic handling and processing; and establishment with significant trade in organic products;
- b) Two from the NGO/PO who represents public interest or consumer interest;
- c) One from organic certifying body as identified under SEC. 6 of this E.O.; and
- d) One from the academe with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation, toxicology and biochemistry.

A member of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years. A member cannot serve consecutive terms unless such member served an original term that was less than 3 years.

A National Technical Committee (NTC) shall be created as an implementing arm of the policies, programs and projects identified and approved by the Board. It shall be drawn from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Land Reform, representative from the private sector and civil society.

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) of the Department of Agriculture shall serve as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat of the Board and the NTC with the member agencies providing additional staff support as the need arises.

SEC. 4. *Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the NOAB and the NTC* . – The NOAB shall have the following function, duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to promote and develop Organic Agriculture;
- (b) Oversee the successful implementation of the Organic Agriculture programs and projects;
- (c) Call upon any government agency to carry out and implement programs and projects identified by the Board;
- (d) Call upon private sectors, people's organizations (POs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), and the academe to provide advise on matters pertaining to organic agriculture;
- (e) Identify sources of financing to expand organic agriculture; and
- (f) Submit annual and other periodic reports to the Office of the President.