

[ **DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 09, May 27, 2009** ]

**GUIDELINES ON THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (ACEF) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Congress enacted into law Republic Act No. 9496 (RA No. 9496) otherwise known as "An Act to Extend the Utilization Period of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), amending Republic Act No. 8178 entitled An Act Replacing Quantitative Import Restrictions on Agricultural Products, Except Rice, with Tariffs, Creating the ACEF, and for Other Purposes."

WHEREAS, Section 8. of RA 9496 states that ten percent (10%) of the Fund shall be set aside and earmarked for funding of a comprehensive scholarship program for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and veterinary medicine education.

WHEREAS, there is a need for the issuance of a separate set of guidelines for this purpose to govern the funding of a comprehensive scholarship program.

NOW, THEREFORE, this administrative order containing the rules and regulations, that will govern the disposition and utilization of ACEF for Scholarship Program is hereby issued.

*SECTION I. General Framework -*

A. DECLARATION OF POLICY

Consistent with the provision of DA Administrative Order No. 19, series of 2009, this issuance maintains the thrust of being supportive of the goal of the national economy for a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key in raising the quality of life for all especially the underprivileged.

B. CLIENTELE

Incoming college, post-secondary and returning students in participating State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)-managed **or supervised** education and training institutions offering agriculture, fishery and forestry **and other** courses **useful to agriculture and fisheries development.**

C. SOURCE OF FUND/FUND ALLOCATION

Ten percent (10%) of the total available funds in Special Fund 183 upon effectivity of this AO.

D. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME

Regional Allocation or By Demand/Number of Interested Scholars per Region. The concerned SUCs/Institutions will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the DA-ACEF ExeCom. Funds will be downloaded to the SUCs/Institutions upon effectivity of MOA **and availability of funds as released by the Department of Budget and Management subject to accounting and audit rules and regulations.**

#### E. PARTICIPATING SCHOOL

Any SUC and TESDA-managed **and supervised** education and training institutions offering degree, diploma and certificate courses in agriculture, fishery and forestry **and other** courses **useful to agriculture and fisheries development.**

#### F. AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

1. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture;
2. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Chemistry;
3. Bachelor of Science in Food Technology under the College of Agriculture
4. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics;
5. Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management;
6. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering;
7. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine;
8. Bachelor of Science in Fisheries;
9. Bachelor of Science in Forestry;
10. Other Agriculture related **degree** courses;
11. Diploma and certificate courses in agriculture, fishery and forestry **and other courses useful to agriculture and fisheries development;** and
12. **Biotech and/or other cutting edge technology courses.**

#### G. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The student must be a Filipino citizen;
2. Incoming college, post secondary, returning students, ***and other qualified and interested applicant;***
3. He/She intends to enroll at any SUC's and other TESDA-managed **and supervised** post-secondary education and training institutions;
4. He/She must be in need of financial assistance;
5. He/She must be physically and mentally fit to undergo education;
6. He/She must be of good moral character; and
7. He/She must not be a recipient of any government scholarship grant of similar nature.

#### H. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

1. Duly accomplished application form;
2. One (1) copy of passport size picture with signature over printed name at the back;
3. If applicable, income tax returns (including attached BIR