



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 Elliptical Road, Diliman
 1100 Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 24
 Series of 2020

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL SWINE PRODUCTION INITIATIVES FOR RECOVERY AND EXPANSION (INSPIRE)

I. OBJECTIVES

General: To hasten the recovery of the hog industry by enhancing hog production in the Philippines to ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of pork and pork products.

Specific:

- To restore swine production as livelihoods and increase income among swine backyard raisers in areas affected by ASF through calibrated repopulation and restocking;
- To expand market opportunities for small hold farmers through value adding on their produce, to cater to meat cutting needs for local market, processors and other retail markets;
- To ensure the continuous supply and availability of swine and pork products to stabilize pork prices;
- To restock government farms and facilities with swine breeders and stocks to assist in the production of genetically sound animals for subsequent distribution to backyard farmer beneficiaries.

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

As used in this Guideline, the following terms, words, and phrases shall be construed as:

1. ASF-affected Farmers- Are hog farmers who are directly or indirectly affected by the spread of ASF in their areas and communities that led to losses in production and incomes.
2. Backyard Hog Farmer- A household or farm-based hog raiser with 1 to 20 heads of growing or adult pigs (suckling pigs excluded) in the vicinity of their residences and properties.
3. Biosecurity - implementation of measures that reduce the risk of disease agents being introduced and spread. The three main elements of biosecurity are segregation, cleaning, and disinfection (FAO, Good Practices for Biosecurity for the Swine Sector, 2010)
4. Cluster- an organized group of backyard hog raisers located in a village or are adjacent to each other with an average of 20 members.
5. Government Swine Farms and Stations- These are farms and stations that operates and manages swine production for the purposes of producing breeders and stocks for research, training, livelihood programs, or income generation. These could be under the management of DA, DA agencies, RFOs, SUCs, or LGUs.
6. Selected Farmer Beneficiaries - are backyard hog farmers belonging to a cluster or organization of hog farmers affected by ASF.

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7. Validation- Confirmation through the provision of objective evidence through on-site observation/evaluation, interview, review of records, and other necessary means to attain the purpose.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Assistance shall be provided to hog farmers and government farms and facilities (DA, SUCs, LGUs). Livelihood modules will be provided to hog farmers who are organized into clusters. Development and capacitation of government multiplier farms will also be undertaken to increase breeder levels and upscale production of swine stocks for distribution to beneficiaries.

Technical and marketing assistance, as well as monitoring activities shall also be carried-out by DA through LGUs and other agencies and stakeholders to ensure the attainment of its objectives. The beneficiaries production will be linked to a value-chain player that ensures market opportunities and increase income. Strict biosecurity protocols and health programs shall be followed and implemented to protect the herds.

The implementer of the project is the National Livestock program through the Bureau of Animal Industry, BAI- National Swine and Poultry Research and Development Center (NSPRDC), National Meat Inspection Service, Agricultural Training Institute-International Training Center on Pig Husbandry, and DA Regional Field Offices.

IV. COVERAGE AND ELIGIBILITY

This project shall cover livelihood enterprise for backyard swine farmers and capacitation of government swine farms and stations in ASF-affected regions.

1. Eligible beneficiaries for the livelihood enterprise project shall be:
 - Coming from zones identified by BAI and RFO as affected by ASF
 - Clusters identified, certified, and endorsed by LGUs composed of at least 20 hog farmer members
2. Eligible government hog farms and stations shall be:
 - Situated in ASF-affected regions
 - Identified and validated as eligible by BAI and DA NLP from the endorsement of the operating agency/office.

V. DELIVERY OF LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO FARMER BENEFICIARIES

1. After verifying and validating the submitted lists, eligible beneficiaries shall be selected by the DA RFO concerned. Based on the determined number of recipients, funds (regardless of sources) will be allocated to responsible agency/RFO.
2. The DA agency/RFO shall undertake procurement process of the project components to be provided to the beneficiaries. Animals shall be secured from healthy and qualified sources.

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3. The delivery of interventions shall be by cluster, where the members shall be gathered for orientation/briefing before the turn-over of their individual modules.
4. The modules shall include piglets, feeds, drugs and biologics, and disinfectants.

Each farmer shall receive the following livelihood module:

Component	Number
Piglets	5
Feeds	20 bags
Drugs and Biologics	Basic package
Disinfectants	Basic package

5. Strict implementation of biosecurity protocols shall be followed.

VI. RESTOCKING OF GOVERNMENT FARMS AND FACILITIES

1. After verification and validation by the office of the Assistant Secretary for Livestock, the qualified farms and facilities shall be determined and prepared for restocking.
2. Farms and facilities under DA BAI, ATI, and RFOs shall receive allocation for this purpose once funds are approved and available.
3. Qualified and selected farms and facilities under SUCs and LGUs shall be funded under either through BAI or RFO concerned.
4. Restocking of this farm involves the acquisition of new breeder stocks, improvement of biosecurity capabilities, maintenance inputs, upgrade of physical facilities, and other developmental inputs to enable the farm/facility to produce more breeders/stocks that can be source of animals for more livelihood interventions and hasten the recovery of the swine industry in ASF affected areas.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

1. Monitoring and Evaluation
 - a. Monitoring and evaluation of the project shall be carried out by DA NLP through DA RFOs/BAI/NMIS/ATI through the help of LGUs to ensure the sustainability of the enterprises and compliance to animal health and biosecurity protocols.
 - b. Monitoring and evaluation will include inventory of production, profit and problems encountered and provision of solution.
2. Training
 - a. Trainings may be provided based on the need of the Selected Recipients before or immediately after the animals has been distributed.
 - b. Modified training/capability building/ technology transfer strategies in light of and in compliance to the prevailing quarantine guidelines, whenever necessary;

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- c. Trainings can also be conducted and facilitated by LGU trained trainers together with the DA – ATI / ATI – RTCs and SUCs (e.g. FLS-GEM).
3. Market Access Assistance
- a. In collaboration with DA - Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and other relevant agencies, the qualified beneficiaries will be assisted in:
 1. Linking to possible market;
 2. Promotion and advertisements; and
 3. Product development and labeling;
 - b. A “harvest weight of 110-130kg” is ideal target for the beneficiaries to expand the market opportunities-supplying meat cutting plants for cutting and further processing, to add value to the produce and more income to the farmers.
 - c. NMIS, RFOs, and LGUs shall assist the clusters to be linked to accredited slaughterhouses, meat cutting facilities, and cold storage warehouses to realize value-adding and value-chain inputs.

VIII. PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

A Project Management Team (PMT) shall be created to oversee and provide guidance in the implementation of the Project. The PMT Composition shall be as follows:

Team Leader:	Chief, BAI- National Swine and Poultry Research and Development Center
Co-Team Leader:	Center Director, ATI-International Training Center on Pig Husbandry
Members:	Regional Livestock Coordinators/ Focal Persons
Overall Coordinator:	National Livestock Program Coordinator

Roles and Responsibilities:

- a. Validate DA RFOs and DA-ATI-RTCs approval of recipients;
- b. Ensure that all schedules of activities and deliveries in the DA – RFOs and agencies are met;
- c. Gather project data and information and provide regular reports and recommendations for the Assistant Secretary for Livestock to review;
- d. Maintain project documents / reports and update as necessary;
- e. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of project implementation;

IX. SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDELINE

A supplementary guideline for the implementation of the project may be issued by the implementing agencies and RFOs in order to facilitate the procurement of animals and inputs, and the orderly implementation of the project.

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X. SUSTAINABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

DA - RFOs shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the projects in coordination with the PMO. They will work in close coordination with LGUs and Agriculture and Fishery Council to assist the Selected Beneficiaries and Recipients in their technical and other related needs in maintaining health and productivity of their animals.

XI. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall be valid unless revoked and superseded by future issuances.

Done in the Quezon City, this 1st day of July, 2020.

Approved:

WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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