

**[ATI ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 22, S. 2008,
June 24, 2008]**

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE
ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDERS
(ESPS) FOR THE PROVISION OF EXTENSION SERVICES**

Pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 11, series of 2007, and in compliance with the provisions of Section 91 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 8435; otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA). the foilowing Rules and Regulations are hereby promulgated to govern the accreditation of private ESPs.

ARTICLE 1

TITLE, OBJECTIVES AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Title - This Administrative Order shall be known as the "Rules and Regulations Implementing the Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 11, series of 2007.":

SECTION 2. Objectives - The following Rules and Regulations are hereby adopted, promulgated and issued to carry out the provisions of Administrative Order No. 11, specifically:

- a. To hasten and improve the delivery of extension services to the Department of Agriculture's client system;
- b. To provide opportunities and wider participation of the private sector in the conduct of agricultural extension services;
- c. To recognize the efforts and capabilities of private institutions/service providers dedicated to the delivery of agriculture and fisheries extension services; and
- d. To provide a variety of training programs/extension activities for farmers and fisher folk in support of the thrusts of the agriculture and fisheries modernization program.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms - When used in these Rules the following terms shall mean:

- a. Accreditation - a certification issued by the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute, that the holder is recognized as meeting approved standards of a private Extension Service Provider which will undertake on behalf of the Department training and other complementary extension services to target cliente ie.
- b. Areas for Accreditation - areas where conformity to approved standards shall be

ensured.

c. Competency Matrix - a summary table of the minimum expertise and skills of the rfSP's trainers, training support staff and faculty-on-call.

d. conformity-fulfillment of a requirement

e. cooperative - farmers' and fisherfolks' cooperatives.

f. ESP Accreditation Advisory Council - the body that shall approve/disapprove application for accreditation.

g. Field Validation -on site confirmation, through the provision of objective evidence that the requirements have been fulfilled.

h. Local Extension Service Provider - a private Extension Service Provider operating at a regional or sub-regional level such as in a municipal or provincial area.

i Multinational Companies - business organizations whether foreign-owned or jointly-owned by Filipino citizen and foreigner; and are duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to engage in agricultural and fisheries extension services.

j. National Extension Service Provider - a private Extension Service Provider with more than one (1) regional coverage

k. Non-conformity - non-fulfillment of a requirement

l. Non-Government Organizations (NGO) - a non-profit organization providing welfare and development services in the agriculture and fisheries sector.

m. Extension Service Providers (ESP) - organizations which undertake training and other complementary extension activities for target clientele along the value chain (input suppliers, producers, traders, processors and consumers)

n Rural-Based Organizations (RBO) - Department of Agriculture-assisted organizations, such as Pambansang Mannalón, Maguuma, Magbabaul, Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP), Rural Improvement Club (RIC), and 4-H that promote agriculture and fisheries extension in rural areas.

o. Trainers - individuals who are capable of preparing training designs, training modules, executive training programs, delivering modules, facilitating training activities, and/or evaluating them.

p. Training Management Staff - individuals who provide administrative and technical assistance in the conduct/management of a training.

q. Table Evaluation - preliminary evaluation of applicants

ARTICLE II COVERAGE

SECTION 4. Coverage -Accreditation shall apply to any of the following institutions/

organization which offer regular agriculture and fishery extension programs:

- a. Rural-Based Organizations;
- b. Cooperatives;
- c. Non-Government Organizations;
- d. people's Organizations;
- e. Multinational Companies

ARTICLE III CONFLICT OF INTEREST

SECTION 5. Conflict of Interest - Extension Service Providers shall not be eligible for accreditation under circumstances set forth below;

a If an ESP combines the functions of conducting extension services as part of consultancy services for the Department of Agriculture.

b If an ESP is associated with or affiliated to a consultancy firm providing services to the Department of Agriculture;

c. If any officer/staff of the ESP is related to the following by affinity or consanguinity up to the third degree: 1) Management Committee of the Agricultural Training Institute and its Center networks, or any staff involved in standard setting and accreditation activities, and 2) National and Regional ESP Accreditation Advisory Council.

d. If an ESP has officers and staff currently employed in the government particularly with the Department of Agriculture or any agency under its supervision.

Existence of any of the above-mentioned instances shall automatically disqualify the applicant or result in the revocation of the accreditation once granted.

ARTICLE IV ESP ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COUNCIL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

SECTION 6. Composition and Term of Office of the National ESP Accreditation Advisory Council - The National ESP Accreditation Advisory Council is hereby constituted and shall be composed of the following;

a. The Director of the Agricultural Training Institute who shall serve as the Executive Officer. As such, he shall be responsible for the execution of policies and directions of the National Council.

The following members who shall be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture:

- b. One representative from the Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Network (AFEN)
- c. One representative from the State Universities and Colleges
- d. One representative from the Local Government Units

- e. One representative from the private sector.

The members shall vote from among themselves a chair and vice-chair.

Each member will have a term of office of two (2) years without prejudice to being reappointed. In case of vacancy due to retirement, resignation, transfer, incapacitation or death, the Council may nominate replacement/s to serve the unexpired portion of the term subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 7. Composition and Term of Office of the Regional ESP Accreditation Advisory Council -The Regional ESP Accreditation Advisory Council is hereby constituted and shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Center Director of the Agricultural Training Institute who shall serve as the Regional Executive Officer. As such, he shall be responsible for the execution of policies and directions of the Regional Council.

The following members who shall be designated by the Director of the Agricultural Training Institute;

- b. One representative from the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Network (AFEN).
- c . One representative from the State Universities and Colleges
- d. One representative from the Local Government Units
- e. One representative from the private sector v.

The members shall vote from among themselves a chair and vice-chair.

Each member will have a term of office of two (2) years without prejudice to being reappointed. In case of vacancy due to retirement, resignation, transfer, incapacitation or death, the Regional Council may nominate replacement/s to serve the unexpired portion of the term subject to the approval of the Director of the Agricultural Training Institute.

SECTION 8. Functions of the National Council - The following shall be the functions of the National Council:

- a. Provide the overall policy guidelines and directions of the program;
- b. Issue Accreditation Certificate through the Council's Executive Officer.

SECTION 9. Functions of the Regional Council - The following shall be the Functions of the Regional Council:

- a. Provide the regional policy guidelines and direction of the program;
- b. indorse all approved applications to the National Council's Executive Officer through the M tional Secretariat for issuance of Accreditation Certificate.

SECTION 10. Attendance of Meetings and Quorums - Appointment to the Councilries an expectation of regular attendance. The Council shall have a regular quarterly meeting and conduct an annual general meeting. Decisions by majority of the Council shall be valid and binding. A special meeting maybe called by the Chair and/or majority of the Council, whenever necessary.

SECTION 11. National Secretariat - A National Secretariat whose members shall be designated by the ATI Director shall perform the following functions:

- a. provides application forms to national ESP applicant;
- b. Receives ail applications of national ESPs for accreditation and conducts preliminary evaluation;
- c. Coordinates and conducts field validation when deemed necessary;
- d Renders report of its findings and recommendations to the Council through the Executive Officer;
- e. Issues notice of approval/disapproval to applicants;
- f. Issues notice of renewal to accredited ESPs; g. Performs other related duties as may be directed by the Council

SECTION 12. Regional Secretariat -The ATI Center Director shall designate a Regional Secretariat whose membership comes from the Technical Division and shall have the following functions:

- a. Provides application forms to local ESP applicant;
- b. Receives all application of local ESPs for accreditation and conducts preliminary evaluation;
- c. Coordinates and conducts field validation for local ESP and preliminary evaluation for inter-regional ESPs when deemed necessary;
- d. Renders report of its findings and recommendations to the Regional and National Council through the National Secretariat;
- e. Performs other related duties as may be directed by the Council.

ARTICLE V CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

SECTION 13. Eligibility - The following shall be considered for accreditation if they meet the eligibility requirements:

- a. Partnerships/corporations duly organized under the Laws of the Philippines and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- b. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority;
- c. Non-Profit and Non-Stock Organizations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- d. Multinational corporations shall apply for accreditation, provided, relevant laws allow multinationals to engage in extension services. Provided further, that all those who actually perform the services shall be Filipino citizens and registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice their professions.
- e. Joint Venture among Filipino Extension Service Providers and foreign multi-nationals may be allowed, if it will result to better extension services, subject to Securities and exchange Commission laws and the provisions of this IRR.