

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 801, May 14, 2009**]

ENCOURAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS) TO ADOPT THE *TECHNO GABAY* IN THEIR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the Constitution mandates the State to encourage the widest participation of local government units, private groups and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology, as well as regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit;

WHEREAS, in consonance with the above constitutional mandate, and in adherence to the Local Government Code of 1991, Local Government Units (LGUs) are now tasked to provide extension delivery services, particularly in terms of food production extension plans and budgets;

WHEREAS, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) of 2004-2010, likewise specifically provides that Local Government Units shall exert efforts to strengthen and maximize the technology extension delivery modalities of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCARRD-DOST), with emphasis on the Techno Gabay Program, and shall consolidate the said program with similar extension models of other agencies and bureaus;

WHEREAS, the DOST and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), have conceitedly resolved that the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) shall further support the LGUs' agricultural development programs anchored on the Techno Gabay Program modalities;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA), in Department Order No. 03, series of 2007, designated the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) as lead agency for e-Extension services in agriculture, fisheries and natural resources, in collaboration with other government agencies, SUCs and concerned stakeholders;

WHEREAS, the Techno Gabay Program, now on its tenth year, has established Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS) centers nationwide, majority of which are LGU-based, attesting to the program's growing grassroots presence and undisputedly seen as an important enhancement of LGUs' existing extension delivery services;

WHEREAS, TGP's Performance and Impact Assessment Studies attested to the outstanding viability of TGP modalities to lead to higher technical efficiency and farm productivity and profitability;

WHEREAS, TGP's stakeholders have expressed a continuing interest to sustain TGP operations in the countryside and there is likewise a growing interest among LGUs to adopt the said program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Law and the Constitution, do hereby encourage all Local Government Units in the municipal and provincial levels to adopt the Techno Gabay Program as an extension delivery services modality, and ordering the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Commission on Higher Education - State Universities and Colleges (CHED-SUCs) and other concerned agencies, as may be determined by the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group to be created pursuant to Section 5 hereof, to provide the required assistance for the purpose.

SECTION 1. Scope and Coverage - The Executive Order shall cover all local government units where there are dominant agricultural areas, inclusive of fishery and forestry and/or whose constituents derive livelihood from farming activities such as urban agriculture and agriculture-based pro-poor nutrition/livelihood programs. The Technical Working Group, created under Section 5, hereof shall provide the criteria for determining the towns and provinces, which shall be covered by this Executive Order.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Executive Order, the following terms or words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:

- a. **Techno Gabay Program** - a PCARRD-DOST initiative which serves as a platform for developing, testing, and promoting technology transfer and dissemination modalities through the networking of R&D institutions in the agriculture, forestry, and natural resources (AFNR) sectors, namely the Regional R&D consortia and other members of the National Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Network (NARRDN); LGUs, non-government organizations, core of Farmer Scientists or Magsasaka Siyentista, and other extension service providers, thereby enhancing technology utilization, adoption, and commercialization.
- b. **Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) or Techno Pinoy Center** - serves as a one-stop service facility nearest to the majority of farmers, entrepreneurs and other clients in a given area. It provides fast access to information and technologies in forms appropriate to the clients' needs.
- c. **Magsasaka Siyentista** - is an outstanding farmer who is successful in his/her use of S&T-based and indigenous technologies. The MS is a vital link in technologies developed in the laboratories and ultimate adoption in farmers' fields.
- d. **National Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Network (NARRDN)** - an aggrupation of government and non-government institutions working on agriculture and natural resources research and development (R&D).