

**[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2005-25,
November 17, 2005]**

**GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UPLAND
AGROFORESTRY PROGRAM**

Pursuant to the provision of Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, Executive Order No. 192 dated 10 June 1987 and Presidential Decree No. 705 dated 19 May 1975, as amended, which provide for the protection and advancement of the right of the Filipino people to a healthful and balanced environment and in line with the food security program of the government, the following guidelines on the implementation of the Upland Agroforestry Program (UAfP) are hereby promulgated:

SECTION 1. Basic Policy - Consistent with the National Forestation Program of the government to enhance forestlands productivity, it is the policy of the State to promote equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth in the development of open and unproductive areas in forestlands. Agroforestry systems that are best suited based on the biophysical characteristics of the area shall be adopted. Private-public partnerships and other similar arrangements shall be encouraged in the pursuit of this endeavor.

SECTION 2. Objectives - The objectives of these guidelines are as follows:

1. To reduce rural poverty by increasing productivity and employment in the uplands through the development of upland agroforestry farms and plantations nationwide;
2. To enhance forest cover of forestlands by planting economically beneficial crops in addition to timber species;
3. To ensure sufficient supply of agricultural and fruit tree crops through private-public participation and by encouraging all sectors to engage in the development of agroforestry farms and plantations; and
4. To improve the economic well-being of upland people and communities dependent on forestlands and forest resources by ensuring equitable opportunities and access to forestlands and forest resources.

SECTION 3. Coverage - At least 4 million hectares of open and unproductive forestlands shall be made available for the establishment and development of agroforestry farms and plantations under the Upland Agroforestry Program (UAfP). These areas shall be comprised by cultivated areas, shrub lands, wooded grasslands and grasslands that are within the forestlands.

This may initially include the 1.9 million hectares earmarked for agroforestry development under the Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP) and other forestlands currently used for other purposes, e.g. grazing lands.

For purposes of this guidelines, agroforestry shall refer to the management of forestlands which increases their productivity by properly combining, forest trees and agricultural crops (annual, biennial and perennial crops) including livestock simultaneously or sequentially over time through the application of compatible management practices. The selection and use of agroforestry crops shall be determined based on site suitability, existing technology, cultural considerations, and market potential, among others.

SECTION 4. Identification of Potential Areas - The Forest Management Bureau (FMB), with the cooperation of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), shall determine the potential areas for agroforestry production from the existing and identified production forestlands, based on the reconciled 2003 Forest Cover Data and Maps, provided that, areas already covered by Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) and those targeted under the DENR-DA-DAR Convergence especially the undeveloped DAR resettlement areas shall be prioritized in the identification of potential agroforestry projects.

SECTION 5. Validation and Assessment of Potential Areas - The Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENRO), in coordination with the local government units (LGUs) and other agencies concerned and stakeholders shall determine the current land use and vegetative cover of the identified areas taking into consideration, among others, their biophysical characteristics, the various land tenure instruments that may have already been issued in the area, and the extent of the areas with high potential for agroforestry development.

The assessment shall include the identification of appropriate and or suitable tree and agricultural crops for the potential agroforestry areas.

These areas shall be properly indicated in the control maps of the DENR regional, provincial and community offices. The maps shall be made accessible and available to interested parties.

SECTION 6. Qualifications of Applicants -

6.1 Group :

The Program shall be open to Filipino organizations, corporations, cooperatives, associations, NGOs and other interested parties e.g. LGUs, which possess the following qualifications:

6.1.1 Duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA);

6.1.2 Financially capable to support agroforestry development, including but not limited to bank guarantee;

6.1.3 Track record in forest development/agroforestry/agribusiness and other relevant business activities.

6.2 Individuals

6.2.1 Interested individuals who are part of associations, Non-government organizations (NGOs) or corporation may also apply under the Program, provided that he/she has good track record in forest development/agroforestry/ agribusiness and other relevant business activities.

SECTION 7. Requirements for Application

1. Application letter;
2. Agroforestry Development Plan;
3. Group applicants shall satisfy the following additional requirements:
 - 3.1 Certified true copy of the Certificate of Registration with authorized registering government agency;
 - 3.2 List of duly elected officers and members and their addresses duly certified by the Board Secretary; and
 - 3.3 Audited financial statements for the last two (2) years, for applicants already in existence; and or
 - 3.4 Proof of financial and technical capability to undertake agroforestry development activities such as credit lines from financial institutions and properties that could be used as collateral and certifications on past performance.
4. Individual applicants need to show proof of financial and technical capability to undertake agroforestry development activities such as credit lines from financial institutions and properties that could be used as collateral and certifications on past performance.

SECTION 8. Size of Agroforestry Project Areas

Identified suitable forestlands of 50 hectares and above may be granted to qualified Filipino organizations, corporations, cooperatives, associations, NGOs. etc. for the establishment and development of agroforestry farms and plantations.

For LGUs, the forestlands that may be granted shall be dependent upon the available suitable areas allocated under approved FLUP. In the absence of FLUP, areas exceeding 1,000 hectares may be granted to eligible applicants based on available suitable areas and result of feasibility studies.

For individuals, the minimum area to be granted shall be 50 hectares. Approval of agroforestry area exceeding 50 hectares shall be determined based track record and financial capability as indicated on the ADP of the applicants.

SECTION 9. Processing of Applications

a. Filing of Applications - All applications shall be filed at the CENRO, which has jurisdiction over the areas applied for upland agroforestry projects. The application shall indicate the general area subject of the application and the proposed agroforestry undertaking.

In cases where there are more than one (1) qualified applicants over an area, the DENR official concerned shall create an ad-hoc body which shall determine the most qualified applicant.

A catalog of potential agroforestry projects containing the basic information/profile and maps will be provided by the DENR (in coordination with other agencies) to prospective applicants.