

[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 13, April 23, 2003]

GUIDELINES IN THE ACCREDITATION OF CERTIFYING BODIES FOR STANDARDS ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Sec. 60 and Sec. 63 Chapter 7 of RA 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, specifically mandates the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) to formulate and enforce standards of quality in the processing, preservation, packaging, labeling, importation, exportation, distribution and advertising of agriculture and fisheries products.

It is further recognized that in order for the government to enforce standards of quality and safety throughout the country a strong collaboration and effective partnership with the private sectors and non-government organizations with proven competency and experiences in organic agriculture and with adequate technical personnel and financial resources must be forged. To tap their expertise as certifying bodies, there is an imperative need to provide and spell-out specific guidelines in the accreditation of certifying bodies for the enforcement of standards for organic agriculture.

1. Objectives of Accreditation. The accreditation of the private sector institutions, and non-government organizations is aimed to attain the following:

1.1 To tap the expertise of the private sectors and non-government organizations as partners of government in certifying products as organically produce.

1.2 To provide them wider opportunities and direct participation in product certification activities.

1.3 To give due recognition of their efforts, capabilities, competencies and experiences in promoting the development and production of organic products, and marketing of organically produce products both in the local and foreign markets.

1.4 To ensure that the duly accredited certifying bodies shall enforce the Philippine Standards for Organic Agriculture, and comply with the requirements of the approved operating Manual of Certification Procedures.

2. Coverage of Accreditation:

Accreditation shall apply to private business organization, cooperatives, non-government organization, people's organization, foundations and civic-religious organizations.

3. Criteria for Accreditation: