

THE FPA BULLETIN

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FPA launches webinar series to educate stakeholders on regulatory mandate

To educate stakeholders on the different regulatory services of FPA, the FPA, through the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID), launched a weekly Webinar Series held from 21 October to December 2, 2020.

The program also served as a platform where public inquiries and concerns could be addressed.

A total of 549 participants attended the webinar, of which 39 participants are able to attend all the episodes.

The topics include FPA Mandate and Functions and Amendments in the Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines for Fertilizer and Pesticide (Episode 1); Issuance of Certificate of Product

Registration (CPR) and Third-Party Authorization (TPA) for Fertilizer and Pesticide (Episode 2); Issuance of Licenses to Fertilizer and Pesticide Handlers (Episode 3); Issuance of VAT Exemption (Fertilizer), Certificate of Application for the Importation of Pesticides, EUP and Other Certificates for Fertilizer and Pesticide Regulations (Episode 4); Accreditation of Responsible Care Officer (ARCO), Safety Dispenser (ASD), Agricultural Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA) and Fertilizer and Pesticide Researcher (Episode 5); and Registration of Plant-Incorporated Protectant, Issuance of Permit to Purchase Methyl Bromide, Laboratory Analysis for Fertilizer and Pesticide Samples, and FPA Laboratory Recognition Program (Episode 6).

2020 YEAR-END REPORT

I. PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) envisions to improve quality of life for all Filipinos through increased farm incomes, productivity and food production using safe and appropriate fertilizer and pesticide inputs.

As an attached agency to the Department of Agriculture, the FPA is mandated to assure the agricultural sector of adequate

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supplies of fertilizer and pesticide at reasonable prices, rationalizing the manufacture and marketing of fertilizer, protecting the public from the risks inherent in the use of pesticides, and educating the agricultural sector in the use of these inputs.

In order to continue our services during the implementation of community quarantine, Memorandum Circular 09 was issued to allow online application, processing, and release of the following certifications and permits, effective March 17, 2020:

1. VAT Exemption Certificate (Fertilizer)
2. Fertilizer Export Certificate
3. Certificate Authorizing Importation of Pesticides (CAIP)
4. Permit to Purchase Methyl Bromide

Likewise, automatic extension was given to licenses, registrations, and permits, which have expired within the entire duration of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). The stakeholders were advised that these shall be immediately processed within 30 working days upon the lifting of quarantine measures.

Accomplishments from January to December 2020

1. Issuance of Regulatory Documents

Document Issued	Total
Fertilizer VAT Exemption Certificate ¹	1,913
Certification Authorizing Importation of Pesticide (CAIP) ²	3,707
Certificate of Product Registration (CPR)	1,832
License to Operate (LTO) issued by Central Office	1,332
License to Operate for Handlers and Warehouses (issued by Field Units)	4,634
Experimental Use Permit (EUP)	1,013
Other Certificates – Export Certificate	124
Accredited Cards for ARCO, ASD, F/P Researchers ³	3,040
TOTAL	17,595

Notes: 1. VAT Exemption Certificates are issued in relation to the importation of fertilizers.

2. CAIPs are issued in relation to the importation of pesticides.

3. Accreditation cards issued for Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD), Accredited Responsible Care Officers (ARCO), Certified Pesticide Applicators (CPA), and Researchers.

2. Quality Control and Inspection

In compliance with the “Interim Guidelines on 2019 Novel Corona Virus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019 NCoV-ARD) Response in the Workplace” issued by the Department of Health (DOH) for the prevention, containment and mitigation



of COVID-19, the FPA implemented safety protocols during the conduct of field activities such as importation, transport, hauling, delivery, sampling, quality inspection, storage, piling, stacking, display, purchase, sale, use and disposal of fertilizer, pesticide and other agricultural chemicals.

The Field Units are able to monitor a total of 22,403 establishments and inspected 111,001 fertilizer and pesticide products nationwide. The monitoring activity facilitated the detection of 397 violations wherein notices of violations (NoV) were issued accordingly. Also, the Field Units have the responsibility to explain to handlers the provisions of PD 1144 and other FPA policy issuances for them to be guided in complying with laws.

In support to the implementation of the Rice Resiliency Program of DA, the FPA Field Units provided technical assistance in the random sampling and weighing of fertilizers, provision of specifications of fertilizers to be procured, and the monitoring of the transport of these inputs to intended rice farming communities. The samples collected from random sampling have undergone laboratory analyses to ensure that these products are effective and within the prescribed standards.

3. Training, Education and Public Information



The Agency transitioned from the traditional face-to-face method of conducting trainings, symposia, IECs and public information activities to purely online-based since the declaration of Community Quarantine measures. In some areas with less COVID-19 cases and are placed under MGCQ, the conduct of face-to-face method was resumed while following IATF protocols such as physical distancing, wearing of masks and face shields, regular disinfection of office, etc.

Conducting accreditation trainings is necessary for individuals who wish to become Accredited Responsible

Care Officers (ARCO), Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA), Fertilizer and Pesticide Researchers, and Accredited Safety Dispensers (ASD). They will be issued an accreditation ID after passing the required examination and submission of essential requirements. Through online platforms like Zoom, MS Teams, among others, the FPA, in coordination with the FPA Accredited Training Associations (FATA), conducted the required training course and symposium.

Moreover, the Field Operations Coordinating Unit (FOCU) conducted series of online Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD) training for this year. While the Regional Field Units resumed facilitating ASD trainings while observing public health emergency protocols, when quarantine restrictions have been eased in their respective locations. Attendance to ASD trainings is a pre-requirement for individuals or business entities applying for License to Operate (LTO) as FP Dealer

Particulars	No. of trainings
ASD Training	53
Safe and Judicious Use of F/P Products Training	93
Accreditation Training	10
Symposium	13

Also, the Information Unit of the PMID conducted a webinar series composed of 6 episodes attended by 549 participants. The program aimed to promote the different regulatory services of the Agency and answer/clarify public inquiries and concerns being frequently asked. Held from 21 October to December 2, 2020.

4. Good Governance/Institutional Capacity



The FPA has successfully adopted and implemented its Revised Citizens Charter 2020 in compliance with Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018. This enabled the agency to reduce processing time commitments of its frontline services on fertilizer and pesticide issuance of licenses, registrations, permits and certifications.

Further, the Agency, through the efforts of the Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD), was able to maintain its ISO 9001: 2015 certification in the provision of services for the issuance of registrations, licenses and permits on fertilizer, for the year after the Agency underwent third-party audit during

the first quarter.

In response to the call of President Rodrigo Duterte and DA Secretary William Dar to combat corruption in the bureaucracy, the Agency has also recently signed its Pledge of Good Governance and Zero Corruption on September 30, 2020. Along with this, the Agency submitted its Manifesto of Support to the Passage of the FOI Bill into Law to the Presidential Communications and Operations Office (PCOO).

Employees and staff have also maximized the quarantine period to attend different webinars and online trainings to update their knowledge and skills for them to become more efficient in delivering their functions.

The Agency has also implemented Workplace Safety Measures prescribed by the Department of Health and IATF such as the installation of plastic sheets in the client queuing/waiting areas, installation of Infrared Temperature Walkthrough Detector that immediately monitors body temperatures of employees and visitors upon their entry to the office, regular distribution of sanitizers and face masks to employees, and the posting of preventive measures against COVID-19 in strategic office corners.

5. Collaboration with the DA and Other Stakeholders

As a member of the Department of Agriculture Bantay Presyo Task Force, the FPA provided assistance in the monitoring of the Suggested Retail Price (SRP) and price freeze on agri-fishery products during the implementation of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila. The task force has enforced appropriate charges to erring retailers, unscrupulous traders, and hoarders, for violating the Price Act or R.A. 7581 during their weekly monitoring in different public markets

Moreover, the FPA through its Field Units continues to coordinate with the DA Regional Field Offices and Other DA Bureaus and Attached Agencies particularly in the implementation of regionwide Food Safety Program, campaign to address Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation, and the promotion of Good Agricultural Practices. The FUs have been serving as resource persons for the safety handling and application of pesticides, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM), among others, to farmer participants and other stakeholders.

In fulfilling its commitment to protect the public from the health and environmental hazards inherent in the use of fertilizer and pesticide products, the Agency continues to intensify its campaign on the proper waste management of f/p used containers, wrappers and bottles. Accordingly, used f/p containers that have not been properly disposed would cause contamination of water and land once their remaining chemical residue comes out. Thus, the FPA started the distribution of trash bins and sticker labels to distributors and dealers as a strategy to promote the responsible disposal of used pesticide containers.

FPA culminates 18-Day Campaign to End VAWC through digishorts contest



In observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) from November 25 to December 12, 2020, the FPA Gender and Development Focal Point System (FPA GADFPS) organized a video making contest dubbed 'GAD Digishorts Contest', which aimed to promote the different forms of violence being experienced by women of all ages.

The contest entailed the submission of a VAWC related 3- 6 minute video either in a form of documentary, short-film, infomercial, etc. by the different Divisions in the FPA Central Office and the Regional Field Units. Six are able to submit their entries.

The short-film titled "Juana" by the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID) was awarded the Champion. The first runner-up was bagged by "Likaw" of the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD), the second runner-up - "Magda" by the Office of the Executive Director (OED), the third runner-up - "Its aVAWTime" by the Laboratory Services Division (LSD), the fourth runner-up - "Haligi" by the Field Unit VII and the fifth runner-up-

"La Casa de Violencia" by the Field Unit XI.

For the Special Awards, they were awarded to Aleni Gonzales and Jianne Figueroa as the Best Actresses, Ivan Layag as the Best Actor, Kelcey Joy Sotto as the Best Supporting Actress and Regional Officer Arnulfo Arausa as the Best Supporting Actor. Moreover, the Most Influential Video which gained the most number of reach in social media was awarded to the film Madga by the OED.

The entries were judged based on relevance to the theme, storyline, and creativity/execution by artists Maricar Pita-Gardiola and Gino Carlo Gardiola, and Atty. Cheryl Sevileno-

Brigole. The virtual awarding ceremony was held on 11 December 2020.

Other activities by the FPA primarily focused on promoting the campaign online through the use of the customized Facebook Profile Frame and the consistent use the #VAWFreePH and #IVowToEndVAW for all related social media posts by employees and stakeholders.

The FPA also participated in the different activities spearheaded by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) such as the distribution of IEC materials, orange your icon, and participation to the different webinars on GAD.

