



PCAF Express

Providing streamlined and updated account on PCAF and its Advisory Special Bodies' resolutions and policy studies



It started as a regular day for the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) of Region XII. In this meeting, members discussed their perennial problem on the lack of capacity to properly package project proposals. This dilemma limits them from acquiring assistance both from the government and private financial institutions that will improve their income and generate work opportunities.

This discussion revealed that there were many farm-based organizations that need assistance in preparing project proposal: a basic requirement to avail the services offered by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other funding agencies.

Farmers and fisherfolks have potential ideas but have insufficient information on the proper way

of presenting these proposals and always end up returning to their homes empty-handed.

It has been the mandate of AFCs to provide the venue for private and government sector partnership for the development processes at the regional, provincial, and municipal levels where issues or concerns are raised, discussed, and resolved and translating them into either as policy reforms or programs.

In fulfillment of this mandate, in its September 2016 meeting, RAFC XII agreed to pass a Resolution recommending to the DA to create a unit/section that will be responsible in helping our farmers and fisherfolks in the preparation and packaging of project proposals.

This unit will also assist

in the loan proposal which will provide an easy access financing program for farmers, fisherfolks, and stakeholders.

The resolution was then passed to the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF). The AFC, along with two other Advisory Special Bodies of PCAF, is the agency's mechanism for people participation, and act as the voice of the people in policy making.

Upon receiving the policy recommendation, PCAF endorsed the resolution to the DA for appropriate action.

At the office of DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, the resolution was found to be meritorious and doable, and was immediately adopted.

Sec. Piñol named the unit as Alalay sa Magsasaka at Mangingisda or ALAMM.



Because of his unceasing commitment to extend the DA's projects and programs down to grassroots level, Sec. Piñol adopted the resolution and announced it in his Facebook post on December 12, 2016.

ALALAY SA MAGSASAKA AT MANGINGISDA

DA UNIT TO HELP FARMERS, FISHERMEN PREPARE PROJECT PROPOSALS FORMED

Facebook post by Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol

"The Department of Agriculture, including its regional offices, bureaus, agencies and corporations attached to it, will soon establish a new unit to assist farmers, fishermen and stakeholders prepare project proposals for funding and support.

Early today, I signed a Memorandum which becomes effective Dec. 12, 2016, directing all offices under the DA to create a unit in their offices to assist stakeholders.

I have named this unit as ALAMM or Alalay sa Magsasaka at Mangingisda Office. This will be fully

operational by January 2017, after the holidays.

The recommendation to create this unit came from the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries which is composed by representatives of stakeholders groups all over the country now headed by Executive Director Sarah Cayona.

The proposal is a result of the concern which I have repeatedly expressed during public consultations and meetings on the failure of government to extend a helping hand to farmers and fisher folks who are asking for projects from the DA.

December 2, 2016

MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

TO : ALL DA SERVICE UNITS
ALL REGIONAL OFFICES
ALL ATTACHED BUREAUS, AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS

SUBJECT : Enjoining all Bureaus, Attached Agencies and Corporations and Regional Offices of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to create a Unit/Section within DA responsible for the preparation and packaging of farmers' and fisherfolk's project proposals.

It has been the mandate of the Department to promote agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises. In the fulfillment of this mandate, it shall be the primary concern of the Department to improve farm income and generate work opportunities for farmers, fishermen and other rural workers.

While the Department encourages small farmers to become agri-entrepreneurs, as it is one of the approaches to improve the farmers' and fisherfolk's income, financing institutions/program directorates require documents, such as; project proposals when approving financial requests. This hinders our farmers and fisherfolk to avail of interventions.

In view of the above and in line with our mission of empowering farming and fishing communities and the private sector, you are hereby enjoined to create a unit/section within DA responsible for the preparation and packaging of project proposals



Screenshot of photos from Sec. Piñol's post. Photo of the memorandum creating ALAMM taken by Diane Faith Garcia. All other photos downloaded from Google.

Every day, since I assumed office as Secretary of Agriculture, I would receive countless messages sent to my mobile phone and Facebook page from farmers, fishermen, overseas Filipino workers and agriculture and

fisheries stakeholders asking for help to start a livelihood project.

Honestly, I find it difficult to respond to all of these messages and give the senders advices on how to ask for assistance from the Dept. of Agriculture to

start their projects.

By not being able to respond, I feel pity to those who really need help from the DA on how to start their projects.

This has always been the problem of farmers, fishermen and small stakeholders.

They have beautiful proposals and the DA has the funds to support these but since they do not know how to present their ideas, they end up getting nothing from government.

With the creation of ALAMM, farmers, fisher folks and stakeholders will only have to go to the different DA offices, regional units, bureaus and attached corporations and relate what they would like to propose.

The staff of ALAMM assist them in making project proposals, including loan proposals under the PUNLA program of the Agriculture Credit Policy Council (ACPC) or government financing institutions like the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), Land Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines.

ALAMM is expected to enlighten farmers, fishermen and other stakeholders on what assistance and support they could get from government. #Changeishere! #PresRodyCares! #DuterteDelivers! #ALAMMKoNa!

Tracing ALAMM

After two months since Sec. Piñol signed the memorandum, a team from PCAF traced the availability of these units in every DA regional offices to determine how ALAMM helps the farmers and fisherfolks.

The team also talked to Region 12 RAFC Chairperson Dionisio Bautista who is very happy that their resolution was translated into a policy that created a unit which can bring support to their fellow agricultural workers not only in their region but also across the country.

“The creation of ALAMM is one of the best things that happened to Region 12 and we are happy that every region will also have this unit. Although it is just probably two or three months, we don't expect that farmers and fisherfolks to be fully aware of this project,” said RAFC Chairperson Bautista.

As of this writing, out of the 16 regions, there are already 15 units created. The map on the side shows the regions where ALAMM is already serving its purpose.

