



PCAF Express

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

Over the years, the clamor for a more transparent and accountable government rises particularly in the agriculture industry.

With the aid of private sector participation in government forums, industry players utilized transparency and accountability as active instruments to create opportunities in unmasking potential inefficiency and corruption.

In the case of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), as the participatory arm of the Department of Agriculture (DA), it provides the forum for multi-stakeholder participation in the agricultural and fisheries development processes which include participatory monitoring and tracking.

The issuance of DA Administrative Order No. 6, Series of 1998 mandated the National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAF Council) to assist the DA in the broad-based monitoring and coordination of the Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Act (AFMA) processes. PCAF, as the secretariat of the NAF Council implements this mandate through its network of its Advisory Special Bodies (ASBs).

The social infrastructure of PCAF is inherently integrative as it covers

PCAF Participatory Monitoring and Tracking (PMT 101)



FMR projects validated by PCAF monitoring team with the regional and provincial monitoring team. (Photo courtesy of PCAF MES)



Some of farm machineries distributed to farmer beneficiaries of DA-PCAF. (Photo courtesy of PCAF MES)

all administrative level and represents the various agriculture and fisheries sectors and subsector. These put PCAF in the strategic position to perform such mandated function.

The involvement of both the public and private industry stakeholders also ensures effective, reasonable and meaningful participation in the agriculture and fishery policy development process and it strengthens the conduct of monitoring and

coordination functions of PCAF.

Furthermore, DA's issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2017 and Special Order No. 542, Series of 2007 authorize PCAF and the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) in the regional, provincial, city, and municipal levels to participate in the conduct of participatory monitoring and tracking of the DA-funded programs and projects.

Understanding PCAF Monitoring and Tracking

1. What is Participatory Monitoring and Tracking?

Participatory Monitoring and Tracking (PMT) is a systematic process that empowers communities as important stakeholders in monitoring and tracking of government's programs and projects.

PMT creates a notion of accountability to answer not only whether stakeholders/beneficiaries are fulfilling the terms of the funding they received, but also if the government was able to meet the needs and goals of the stakeholders/

beneficiaries.

The process also requires the presence of community voices in monitoring and tracking, and build the capacity of community members to become active partners in the process.

As anchored on the NAF Council mandates / functions, PCAF, through its PMT tracks the implementation of the DA programs and projects, and substantiates and give credence to the Department's accomplishment report.

This ensures that the DA budget is effectively allocated and executed to be able to respond to the needs and challenges of the agriculture and fisheries sector.

It also improves governance, promote transparency and accountability in all transactions and services of DA. PCAF's ASBs have the capacity to recommend policy change, corrective and preventive actions, as well as other ways of improving budget execution.

2. Who are the key players?

• *PCAF as a secretariat and support agency*

Aside from coordination and participation in the monitoring and validation, PCAF also provides logistical support for the monitoring-related activities of the Monitoring

Team particularly the NAF Council Budget Committee, subject to the usual auditing and accounting rules and regulations.

The agency also requests and secures annual accomplishment reports and projects lists from the DA Regional

Field Offices (RFOs)

• *DA and its RFOs, Program Directorates, Bureaus and Attached Agencies as cooperating agencies*

Provide the necessary information to be used as reference for monitoring and validation activities.

The information includes, but not limited to banner programs' medium term plans, log frame, Department of Budget and Management approved annual work and financial plans, accomplishment reports, list of current and implemented projects including location and status, implementer,

contact person and contact number.

• **Monitoring Team**

Each of the PMT team is composed of at least one of the following:

- > NAF Council Budget Committee members
- > National Sectoral and Strategic

- Concerns Committee representatives
- > Agricultural and Fishery Councils (Regional and Provincial AFC monitoring teams)
 - > PCAF Monitoring and Evaluation staff
 - > Concerned DA and RFO representatives

3. How is it done?

There are two tracks on how the participatory monitoring and tracking is being done. First is with the NAF Council Budget Committee and the other is with the AFC Monitoring team.

PCAF coordinates with the concerned DA RFO and the list of available projects in the area to be

monitored. A pre and post monitoring meeting is done with the DA RFO and the PMT team. Together with the NAF Council Budget Committee and the regional, provincial, and municipal AFC monitoring team, PCAF visits and inspects projects; interviews the beneficiaries and the recipients; and gathers pertinent information in the field.

The team utilizes a form that contains relevant data and contextual parameters which would show the positive and negative findings and current status and condition of implemented projects. The accomplished form should be supported by picture(s) of each project visited. Afterwards, written report of the findings will be submitted.

4. What are the programs and projects included/listed in the conduct of PMT?

PCAF monitors and validates DA- and PCAF-funded projects prioritized and authorized by the Agriculture Secretary.

These include farm-to-market roads, livestock dispersal, marketing facilities, livelihood projects, irrigation

facilities, production and post-harvest equipment and facilities, farm inputs and planting materials.

Due to the limited number of monitoring teams compared to the enormous number of projects implemented annually, PCAF

created criteria that will be used in the prioritization of projects to be monitored.

These are the location and access to the project site, category of LGU where the project is implemented, source of funds, type, and cost of projects.

5. What's next?

Once initial written reports were consolidated by the team, an exit conference at the last day of every monitoring activity is conducted.

Each team will present their findings on the present condition of the programs and projects that were tracked and validated. Problems, issues and concerns, as well as the corresponding recommendations or

solutions will also be presented during the exit conference.

General recommendations will also be proposed to address the issues and concerns that arises during the conduct of monitoring and validation. The output of the activity will be submitted to the concerned government agency for their information and appropriate action.

The AFCs of the concerned Region, Province, City and Municipality will also receive a copy of the said report for their reference in formulating policy recommendation and coming up with policy resolutions. The consolidated report by project type is then submitted to the DA Secretary for his approval and further instructions.

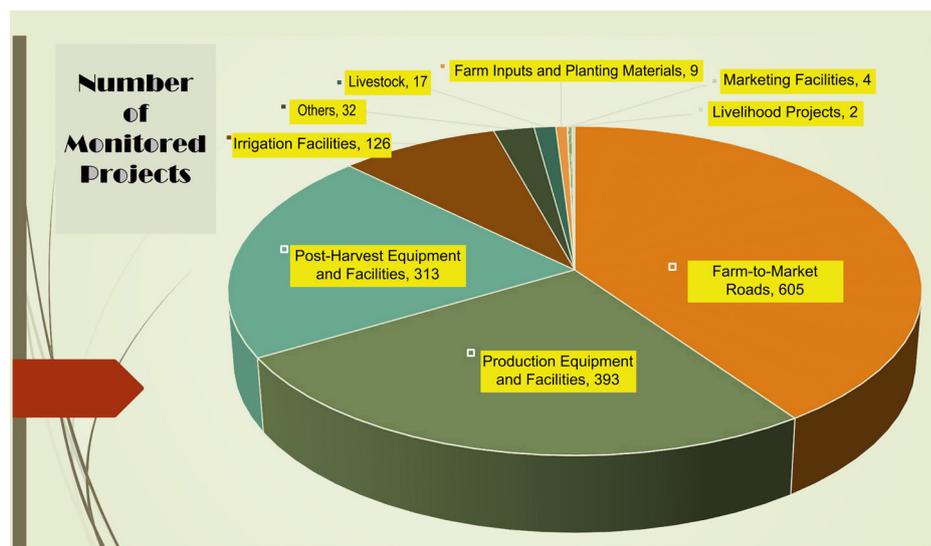
Introduction of Geotagging

Geotagging is a process of adding geographical data or information to various media. It is commonly used for photographs and can help people get lot of specific information about where the picture was taken.

This kind of technology allows projects in remote and conflict-affected areas to be easily and accurately located, managed and validated. The DA introduced the use of geotagging in the conduct of monitoring and tracking activity. As per press time, PCAF had integrated the use of geotagging in its monitoring and tracking activity on FMR projects.

This is in conformity with the Department's policy that all infrastructure projects should be geotagged to ensure preciseness and avoid duplication of interventions to be provided.

Convenience and timely generation of reports are highly expected using the PMT system with geotagging. Submission of reports on the status of validated programs



Graph shows the number of projects monitored and validated by PCAF monitoring team for the year 2017. (Data courtesy of PCAF MES)

and projects, its present conditions and the issues and concerns gathered by the monitoring team can be done electronically using device where the application is ultimately installed.

The output of monitoring activity, through the report submitted by the

monitoring team, will serve as reference for PCAF and its ASBs in crafting and submitting policy resolutions to address national implementation issues and improve the delivery of services in the agriculture and fishery sector.