



# PCAF Express

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

Key things you need to know about

## PCAF's Farmer-Director Program

It has been months since the Farmer-Director ended, yet the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) Chairpersons are still in high spirits since the Farmer-Director Program started on May 2017.

Interests sparked on how this program changed the perspective of RAFC Chairpersons, and how it affected the partnership of the AFCs with the Regional Field Offices of the Department of Agriculture, and of course with the Local Government Units.

This short piece will give light on the importance of the program and what AFC-related activities and events they have worked during their stay as Farmer-Director for the whole month of May.



### 6 facts about the Farmer-Director Program

- 1 **First-ever Farmer-Director Program.** For the first time, the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) conducted the Program to strengthen the partnership between the private and government sector towards the development of the agriculture and fishery industry.
- 2 **Approved by Sec. Piñol.** Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol signed a Memorandum Order dated March 27, 2017 designating Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) Chairpersons as DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) Director for the month of May.
- 3 **A glimpse into government sector's processes.** The program is one of the approaches to enhance further understanding of RAFC Chairpersons in the internal and external processes, programs and projects of the government by giving the Chairpersons opportunity work at the helm of the regional offices of the department. With this approach, both sides are expected to comprehend and correspond to the distinct perspective of each sector that will eventually result in delivery of services and development.
- 4 **16 RAFCs acted as Farmer-Directors.** RAFC Chairpersons assumed as Farmer-Director on May, however Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Chairperson Abdulrahman Macabangon's stint was cut short due to the Marawi Siege on May 23.
- 5 **From a private sector's perspective.** As Officer-in-Charge, RAFC Chairpersons provided recommendations on both policy and non-policy determining activities, however signing is not allowed.
- 6 **Farmer-Directors enhanced appreciation of the AFCs cause.** Aside from visiting facilities, attending various consultations and events, inspection of banner DA programs, media interviews, the Farmer-Directors took the opportunity to talk to the AFCs from the regional, provincial, down to the municipal level.

**Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) –  
Chairperson Balbina Ernesto**

“My experience as Farmer-Director increased my knowledge and enriched my awareness to a more tangible service delivery of the department.”

The highlight of Chairperson Ernesto’s experience as Farmer-Director was the meeting with Sec. Manny Piñol where she shared to him her learnings as Farmer-Director in brief. She also met with Provincial Agriculturists, Municipal Agriculturists, staff and field workers during her field visits to the farmers and AFCs in the region.

**Region 1 –  
Chairperson Vincent Adorna**

RAFC Chairperson Adorna shared his knowledge and familiarity with the Department’s programs and projects.

As Farmer-Director, he worked on the reactivation of AFCs. Likewise, members were given a refresher on the mandate of the council. He also highlighted in his report that in a short span of time, the AFC monitoring in the implementation of projects in the region has been revitalized and become aggressive.

**Region 2 –  
Chairperson Isidro Acosta, Sr.**

Aside from promoting the AFCs by talking in different events, Acosta made sure to create a strong implementation on the inclusion of AFCs particularly Municipal AFCs (MAFCs) in programs and project implementations and planning in their municipalities.

He also asked the LCEs support to the local AFCs because the council is mandated by Law.

**Region 3 –  
Chairperson Francisco Hernandez**

Chairperson Hernandez imparted the importance of the AFCs and the partnership of private sectors in the government in every messages he gave. In his one month stay as Farmer-Director, he dealt with different issues and concerns of the DA. One of the highlights of his term was the forging of a MOA with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija and PCAF to facilitate adaption of modern technology.

**Region 4-A –  
Chairperson Guillermo  
Agripino Argosino**

Chairperson Argosino participated in different events of the DA including the Livelihood Interventions to Quezon’s Farmers and Fisherfolk. He also participated in the continuous monitoring of the project implementation and support of the LGU and local barangay officials and farmers. With these activities, the relationship of the AFCs with the LGUs improved.

**Region 4-B –  
Chairperson Melquiades  
Macalintal**

During his term as a Farmer-Director, Chairperson Macalintal participated in various meetings with the LGUs and DA technical groups in preparing actions plans. He was also invited to do field validations that generated awareness about the works of AFCs.

**Region 5 –  
Chairperson Alfredo Rillo**

He helped promote the AFCs through his meetings with the LGUs and other government agencies. Chairperson Rillo also spearheaded the conduct of capability enhancement trainings for the AFCs leaders and coordinators.

Aside from this, he also insists that DA-RFO 5 should continue to value the participation of private sector as development partners.

# 16 Farmer-Directors

The uniqueness of every region gives different experiences to the Farmer-Directors.

Here’s a quick list on some of the AFC-related accomplishments and recommendations, based on their terminal reports.

**Region 6 –**

**Chairperson Ricardo Provide, Jr.**

As Farmer-Director, Chairperson Provide passed a resolution requesting PCAF to recommend to the DA that all programs and projects will be endorsed by the AFCs. With this resolution, LGUs need to create their AFCs to avail with the programs and projects of DA.

He also said that in Aklan, through the support of its governor, all the municipalities have AFCs and were all active.

**Region 7 –**

**Chairperson Lou Cabalde**

In his one-month stint as Farmer-Director, Chairperson Cabalde made an affiliation through meeting different sectors and agencies to promote the AFC. He met with teachers for the Gulayan sa Paaralan. He also made a courtesy call with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 7 Dir. Dr. Allan Poquita and shared his concerns in the bureau which may be the same with the AFC.

**Region 8 –**

**Chairperson Esteban Conchas**

The Chairperson said his experience as Farmer-Director capacitated him with sufficient tools that provide directions in formulating policies which will give guidance to other agencies. These policies also convince LGUs to look towards the direction of the economic development for the region and the entire country.

**Region 9 –**

**Chairperson Leonardo Caparida**

Chairperson Caparida talked to the LGUs of Zamboanga Sibugay particularly to Gov. Wilter

Palma regarding the lack of support of his office to DA as a whole.

He also mentioned that no funds were allocated to AFC activities, and AFCs were not given priority by other LCEs.

At his recommendation, a briefing will be conducted with LCEs regarding the involvement of LGUs to AFCs. He also talked to younger generations where he encouraged them to make the agriculture sector great again.

**Region 10 –**

**Chairperson Edgardo Layug**

During the Coffee and Cacao Enhance Technology and Value Chain Analysis opening program, Chairperson Layug assured the stakeholders that RAFC is looking into the implementation of the seedlings distribution to improve the quality and decreased the mortality rate of the seedlings.

He also worked on the improvement of financial support to the AFCs particularly the Travel Expense Vouchers. In his stint as Farmer-Director, Prof. Layug pointed out that there are pressing concerns in the regional offices and other departments that impede the fast facilitation and implementation of the program and project, attributing this to the structure of DA regional offices.

**Region 11 –**

**Chairperson Armando Angsinco**

Aside from creating awareness about the AFCs through attending DA activities and ManCom, he conducted consultations with walk-in farmers and fisherfolk during his stay as Farmer-Director.

He also met with the governors and mayors of the region, and conducted a mobile farmers’ forum all over the region.

**Region 12 –**

**Chairperson Dionisio Bautista**

Chairperson Bautista had a dialogue with the LCEs about the re-activation of the inactive MAFCs and re-organization of two MAFCs.

Part of his tasks as Farmer-Director is to conduct field visits and monitoring of DA-funded projects.

**Region Caraga –**

**Chairperson Pedro Lim**

In a meeting with Agusan del Sur *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, Chairperson Lim introduced the roles and functions of AFCs. He also shared the importance of the council as LGU partner towards the agriculture and fishery development.

As an agreement, the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* will take consideration on the support to AFCs.

**Autonomous Region of Muslim  
Mindanao (ARMM) –**

**Chairperson Abdulrahman  
Macabangon**

Chairperson Macabangon made a clear coordination between the AFCs and DA on project implementation, monitoring and identification of beneficiaries of DA-funded projects. He also tried to work on funding support to the AFC activities.

As a Farmer-Director, he got a chance to talk to Research Outreach Station (ROS) head Atty. Kahalid Ansano. The ROS head asked the advice of Chairperson Macabangon on how the private sector can help the ROS facility in allocating funds for the station.

However, the activities were disrupted due to the Marawi siege.