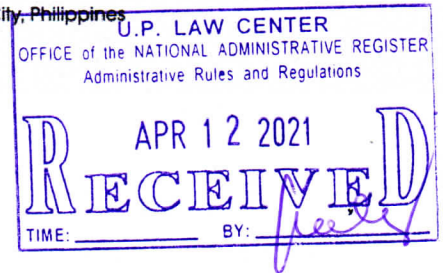




# COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2021-07

Series of 2021.

**TO : ALL CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES FOR COOPERATIVES**

### I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Goal Number 13 of the SDGs is Climate Action, which aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Under this goal, specific targets include strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, and improving the education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

On the other hand, the Philippine Development Plan provides for sustainable integrated area development (SIAD), with participatory environmental governance as the overarching principle in implementing the various strategies to achieve the outcomes. SIAD will be adopted to address ecological, economic, political, cultural, societal, human, and spiritual challenges and opportunities in a specific area. It will be implemented in an integrated manner to ensure social justice and in order to improve the quality of life of the people.

The Philippine Cooperative Development Plan states that "(t)he ultimate test of good governance then is to free every Filipino from the persistent threats of hunger, disease, crime and repression, environmental degradation and to nurture in everyone the will, the drive and the energy to dream and achieve the vision for a just, humane, progressive, and secured country."

The national government is not solely responsible in safeguarding the environment but instead, all sectors of the society, including cooperatives. The government and the community must unify their efforts and jointly work towards the environment protection to be able to conserve biodiversity and to prevent environmental degradation.



## **II. LEGAL BASES** – The following are the legal bases of this Circular:

"Section 6 (a), Republic Act No. 11364, Powers and Functions of the Board.- The Board as collegial body shall be responsible for policy formulation, strategic planning and direction setting of the agency and shall exercise the following powers and functions:

(a) Formulate policies, rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9520 and this Act."

"Article 4, (7) Cooperative Principles, R.A. 9520

(7) *Concern for Community*- Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members."

"Rule 11, Revised Rules and Regulations Implementing Certain Provisions of R.A. 9520, Social Audit of Cooperative"

"MC No. 2018-01, Revised Guidelines on Social Audit of Cooperatives"

## **III. OBJECTIVE**

This Memorandum Circular is issued to ensure the active participation of cooperatives in the promotion of sound environmental practices in order to reduce poverty, promote and maintain food security, biodiversity conservation, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## **IV. SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

All cooperatives of different types and categories are mandated to adopt sound environmental practices. Sound environmental practices are defined as those actions that seek to reduce the negative environmental impact caused by activities and processes through changes and improvements in the organization and development of actions. Sound environmental programs may include, but not limited, to the following:

- Tree Planting and Nurturing of Plants
- Mangrove Planting and Rehabilitation of Mangrove Areas
- Backyard Gardening
- Edible Landscaping and Urban Gardening
- Forest Conservation and Reforestation
- Waste Segregation and Recycling

- Energy Conservation and Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Responsible Packaging and Labeling
- Reduction of Environmental Hazards
- Clean-up Activities
- Paperless Transactions
- Reduction of Carbon Emission
- Use of LED light instead of regular light
- Use of air condition with environment friendly filter
- Use of recycled materials
- Urban gardening with the support of and in collaboration with the LGU (even of barangay level)
- Lending policy on productive loan
- Giving priority to social awareness
- Initiatives of agri-coops to use environment friendly fertilizers/pesticides including research initiatives
- Sustainable advocacy
- Use of planting materials already with high survival rate i.e. at least 3 feet tall
- Campaign against illegal logging
- Edible gardening, mushroom gardening, food in the table concepts, buy coop products
- Identification of site and life span of land where the trees are to be planted, what kind of trees to be planted
- Nutrition farming
- Conventional to sustainable environmental practices

## **V. DETAILS AND MECHANICS**

1. The sound environmental programs of the cooperative shall be implemented in the community as well as in the respective offices of the cooperatives. It may include the adopted community under MC No. 2021-01, "Revised Policy Guidelines Governing the Allocation and Utilization of the Community Development Fund (CDF) of Cooperatives".
2. There shall be a "Tree Planting" activity during the celebration of the Cooperative Month held annually in every region. Members and officers of cooperatives, unions and federations, and the Cooperative Development Authority shall participate in said activity.
3. Cooperatives shall adopt and implement a monitoring scheme for their respective programs. Environmental activities undertaken shall form part of the social audit report under MC No. 2018-01.

4. All programs must be supported by photo/video documentation.
5. Cooperatives shall raise awareness among their members and communities with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation through the conduct of intensified information, communication and education campaigns.

#### **VI. SOURCES AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM.**

The amount allocated for the program may be charged to the CDF or treated as direct expense, or both: *Provided*, That the programs for the community within their area of operations, including the adopted community, shall be charged to the CDF.

The sound environmental practices program shall be included in the annual budget and social development plan pursuant to MC No. 2018-01, subject to the approval of the General Assembly. In line with this, all CDA regional offices are enjoined to supervise, monitor and extend necessary assistance to the concerned cooperatives in the conduct of the activity.

All CDA regional offices are directed to cause the immediate dissemination of this Circular to cooperatives within their jurisdiction in order to ensure compliance thereof.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Approved per CDA BOD Resolution No. 312, S-2020 dated October 28, 2020.

For the Board of Directors:

  
**ORLANDO R. RAVANERA**  
Chairman 