

SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FARMER

I. RATIONALE

Organic agriculture (OA), as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), is a production system that sustains the health of ecosystem, soils and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects; and combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved. With the promise of the benefits of organic agriculture on health, environment and farmers' income, the market share of organically grown produce continue to rise in several parts of the world.

In the Philippines, organic agriculture is still in its incipient phase but it is gaining a strong ground due to growing local and international demand for organically grown produce. The Philippines' organic industry/market is estimated at P250 M or US\$6.2 M. Of this value, domestic organic industry is about P100 M while imports of organic products are estimated at P150M (USDA GAIN Report, 2000). Because of these bright and encouraging prospects, policy, technology and financing support have been set-up to strengthen organic agriculture in the country. Relevant policy support includes the formulation of the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture, Executive Order 481 and the consolidated Senate and House Bills on Organic Agriculture. Moreover, government financing institutions like the Development Bank of the Philippines has established a financing program for organic producers and processors. As an indirect support to organic agriculture, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is implementing the Organic Fertilizer Production Project to strengthen the capacity of farmers, local government units and NGOs to produce their own organic fertilizer through provision of community-based composting facilities.

Inasmuch as the number of organic farms and farmers shifting to organic agriculture is increasing, due recognition must be given to exceptional organic agriculture practitioners. Hence, the DA launches the Search for Outstanding Organic Farmer/Farmer Organizations.

II. OBJECTIVES

General Objective:

To conduct an annual nationwide Search for Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer

Specific Objectives:

1. To provide due recognition to farmer for exceptional performance in producing and marketing of organic crops, livestock and poultry and fisheries;
2. To document success stories and practices of farmers engaged in organic agriculture;

3. To promote and accelerate the dissemination of cost-efficient organic farming technologies and workable producer-user linkage mechanism;
4. To recognize the role of organic agriculture in mitigating impacts of climate change and land degradation.

III. SCOPE

The Search provides awards for Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer who has successfully demonstrated exemplary performance in producing and/or marketing of organic crops, livestock and poultry and fisheries.

Definitions:

Organic Agriculture Farmer – An individual farmer, corporate farmer, or a farmer organization that produces cereals, fruits and vegetables, spices, herbs, livestock and poultry and fisheries following the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture and Processing could be considered as an organic agriculture farmer.

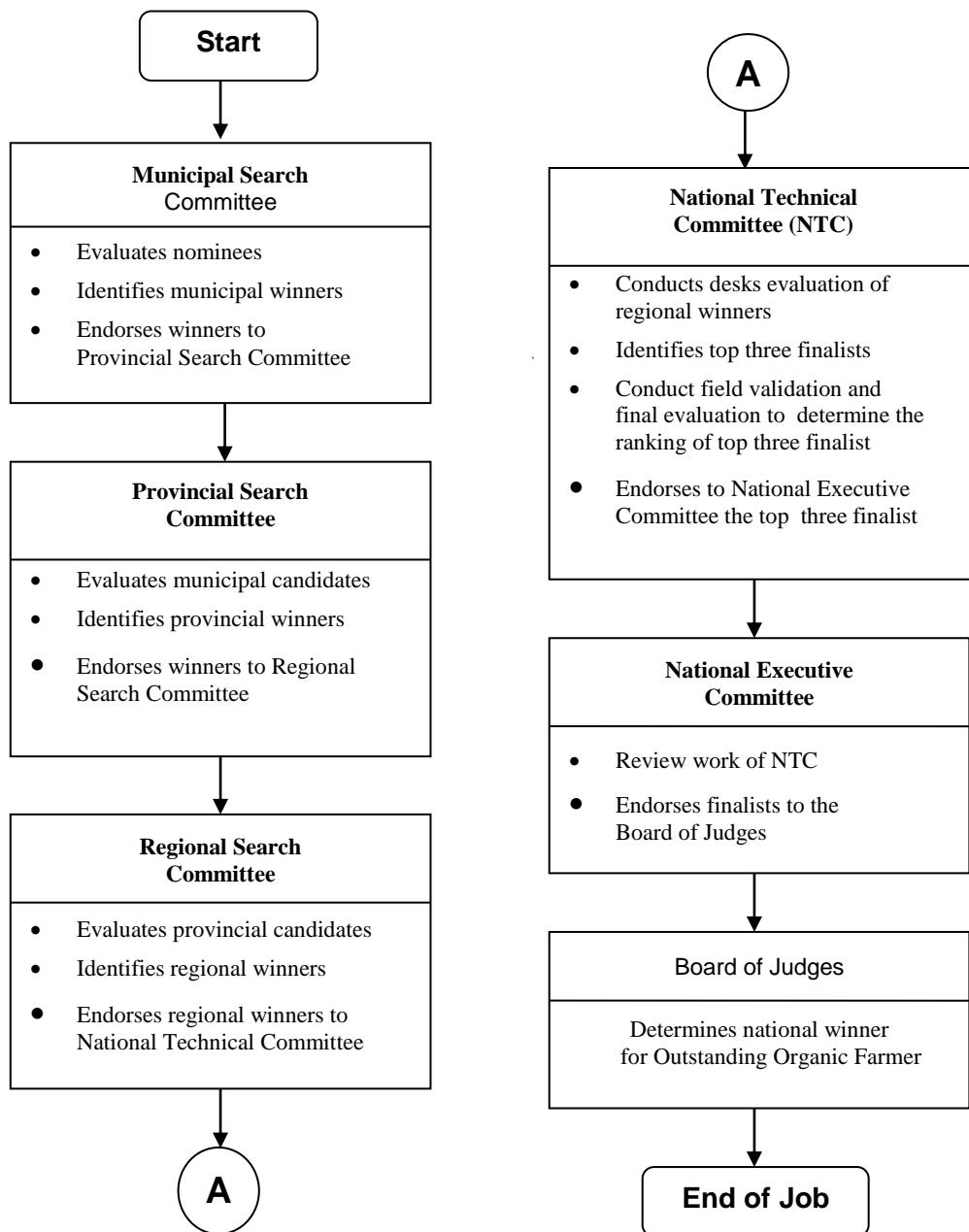
Corporate Farmer – A farmer manager who operates/ manages the farm of a corporation or company duly registered under existing laws which produces cereals, fruits and vegetables, spices, herbs, livestock and poultry and fisheries.

Organic Farmer Organization - A farmer organization is a group of small holder farmers organized either as a cooperative type, or by a processor/ exporter as contract growers that grow the same crops or raise the same livestock and poultry and fisheries following similar management and production practices and marketing system.

IV. SEARCH AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The search shall be conducted at the Barangay level with local communities or local residents identifying prospective outstanding farmer/nominee. The nominating individual or organization then collects information about the farmer, assists him in preparing a scrap book containing the Documentary Requirements outlined in Section VIII of this search guidelines, and submits the nomination form and scrap book to the Municipal Search Committee.

The evaluation process begins at the Municipal level and ends at the National Level. The evaluation procedure is shown on the next page.



V. SEARCH RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Nomination shall be made on the prescribed form by any individual who is a non-Department of Agriculture employee, a civic organization or a farmers association;
- B. Only qualified nominees as defined in Sections III Scope and VI Qualifications of Nominee and with complete scrap book and records of operations will be considered for evaluation;
- C. Nominees must have a valid organic certificate or proof of certificate renewal application during the time of Search application.
- D. A national winner and previous winners of the Search for Outstanding Organic Agriculture Initiative: Certified Farm Category shall not be eligible for nomination in the same category in the DA Annual Search within five (5) years after winning the award;
- E. Pesticide residue analysis shall be a means of verifying non-usage of chemicals. Detection of pesticide residue shall be ground for disqualification.

- F. The immediate two (2) years preceding the start of the search is the performance period covered for evaluation;
- G. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be final; and
- H. The national winner's scrap book, video tape and other documents submitted for evaluation shall become the property of the Department of Agriculture.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS OF NOMINEES

To qualify for the search for the Outstanding Organic Agriculture Farmer the following should be met:

- a. A Filipino citizen of good moral character as duly certified by the Barangay Chairman
- b. Must not be an employee/official of the Department of Agriculture
- c. An organic farmer/farmer organizations by principal occupation whose farm has been duly certified by DA-accredited certifying body and/or foreign certifying bodies;
- d. Must be resident in the community for the last 2 years;
- e. Must show proof of records or documents including on farm records, farm reports of operations, expenses and incomes for the last 2 years, immediately preceding the evaluation report; and
- f. Have good credit standing, if loan borrower.

VII. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

1. **Scrapbook.** The nominee's scrap book shall be prepared by the nominee himself, to be guided by the AT of the locality who shall verify and check the accuracy and completeness of the book. The book must have the following format:
 - A. Table of contents.
 - B. Nomination form duly filled out by the nominating officer (Pls. see OOF Form 1).
 - C. Brief biography or write-up about the nominee (farmer or farmer organization) with two (2) latest ID pictures including farm profile (Pls. see OOF Form 2). For farmer organization, include the organization's profile and list of members.
 - D. Farm location map
 - E. Farm layout. Sketch the land allocation to the different enterprises in the farm with their respective area, if applicable. Label each subdivision properly with the enterprise.

- F. Production history. Indicate the number of years that the farm has been cultivated under organic production system. Graph all the cropping patterns used in the farm against the months of the year with planting and harvesting time properly indicated, if appropriate.
- G. Farm report containing the following:
1. Management practices use in the farm, by enterprise.
 2. Production record.
 3. Cost and return analysis, by enterprise and total farm (for individual farmer) or Financial Statement (for group of farmers/ corporations)
- H. Farm photographs. The farm photographs should show the actual stand of the crop and any enterprise of the farm during the record keeping period. Different activities for each enterprise (e.g. planting, spraying, etc.) may also be included. Activities that need special attention should be taken in focus.
- I. Photocopy of the certificate issued by the DA-accredited or internationally-recognized organic certifier or proof of certificate renewal application;
- J. Copy of the Internal Control System Manual (for group of farmers) – can be presented as a separate document;
- K. Proof of market linkages (e.g. Purchase Orders, Delivery Receipts, etc) – optional;

2. Supporting documents which include the following:

- a) Certification from the Barangay Chairman that the nominee is a resident of the locality, a Filipino citizen, a non-DA employee and of good moral character.
- b) Certification from Municipal Agriculturist/Agricultural Technician that the nominee is a bonafide farmer
- c) Certification from a financing institution that the farmer is in good credit standing.
- d) Income Tax Return (ITR) for the preceding two (2) years, duly certified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).
- e) Photocopies of all documents and materials indicating meritorious contributions accomplishments in the field of endeavor (e.g. certificate of membership to farmer organization, community involvement to certain projects, etc.)
- f) Five-minute (maximum) videotape about the farmer, his farm activities and other related information.

VIII. THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

Three (3) areas are considered in evaluating an outstanding organic farmer/farmer organization. These are: a) the farmer/farmer organization; b) the farm; and c) social impact/contribution to the community.

The following are the criteria under each area of evaluation. The weight of each criterion is presented in **OOF Form 3 - Evaluation Score Sheet**

A. The Farmer

The farmer is evaluated in terms of the management skill, technical knowledge, decision making ability and farm record keeping.

1. **Management Skill.** This is the ability of the farmer to allocate available resources (land, labor, capital) to different farm enterprises as well as solve resource-related constraints and keep farm records (i.e. detailed expenses for each field operation/activity and production record). This could ensure optimization of efficiency of farm resources, increase farm productivity and subsequently enhance his/her cash generation and savings formation capacity.
2. **Technical Knowledge.** This is the level of the farmer's knowledge on new organic farming technologies and practices that will increase his/her farm productivity and income and improve the farm's ecological balance. This could also be demonstrated by how he/she solves technical-related problems and optimize opportunities/potentials for the improvement of the farming system.
3. **Decision-making ability.** This refers to the capacity of a farmer to make decisions concerning improvements, innovations, and changes on the technical, social and economic aspect of the farm.

B. The Farm

1. **Farm Resource Management.** This is a measure of how available farm resources are utilized to optimize efficiency and effectiveness.
 - a. *Land resources utilization.* An important measure of land utilization is cropping intensity which is computed as crops harvested during the year. The higher the index, the more intensified is the farm.
 - b. *Farm labor optimization.* Good labor management must be able to overcome labor constraints and must be able to generate employment in the community.
 - c. *Capital allocation.* This refers to how the farmer manages his capital and how he/she overcomes capital constraints.
 - d. *Use of indigenous or local resources.* This pertains to whether resources from the farm and community are being utilized to minimize dependence on external inputs. A farmer should be able to produce his own organic fertilizer using locally available raw materials.
 - e. *Profitability.* This is an assessment based on the return for every monetary unit invested in the organic agriculture enterprise including other farm enterprises. The higher the return of investment (ROI), the better is the economic performance of the enterprise. The ROI is calculated as:

Net Income

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\quad}{\text{Total Expenses}}$$

2. **Farm condition.** This is an assessment on the general conditions of the farm as affected by the farmer's farming practices.
 - a. *Land use allocation.* This is an assessment of how the farmer utilizes his farm in conformity with natural feature and how he/she overcomes constraints.
 - b. *Maintenance of farm facilities.* This is an assessment of the condition of farm facilities (irrigation, machinery, post-harvest, composting facility etc) being used by the farmer.
 - c. *Crop stand/animal health status.* This is an assessment of the effectiveness of farmer's pest and disease management practices.

C. The Farming System

1. **Degree of integration.** This is a measure of the extent of integration in the farm, i.e. the number of enterprises integrated and the scale of integration.
2. **Sustainability.** This is an assessment of the ability of the farming system to continue high levels of production for a long period of time. A key informant interview could be carried out to determine if the farmer is practicing ecological conservation strategies (i.e soil and water conservation, soil fertility management) and examine if the level of his/her production and income are stable through the years.
3. **Replicability.** This is the feasibility of a farming system to be undertaken by other farmers in the community. His/her farm should serve as a show window of organic farming technologies and encourage other farmers to shift into organic farming.

D. Social Impact/Contribution to the Community

1. **Farmer's involvement with the community**
This could be measured by examining farmer's memberships to farmer's organization/civic organizations and active participation in community affairs.
2. **Impact of farming system to the community.** This refers to the effect of the farming system in the improvement of the welfare of the people in the community (e.g. wide adoption of the farmer's technologies by his/her peers, etc.).

OOF Form 1

SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING ORGANIC FARMER/FARMER ORGANIZATION

NOMINATION FORM

NAME : _____
FARM LOCATION : _____
CONTACT ADDRESS : _____
PROVINCE/ REGION : _____
COMMODITY : _____
NAME OF BUYER : _____

Justification/ Reason for nomination:

Nominated Name & signature : _____
Position : _____
Address : _____
Attested By : _____

C. MARKET

Market	Destinations
Domestic	
Others	

D. BUYERS

Type of Buyers e.g. wholesalers, contract growers, hotels, supermarts	Name
Domestic	
Others	

E. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES USED IN THE FARM / PLANT PRODUCTION RECORD / COST AND RETURN ANALYSIS (ROI)

F. PHOTOGRAPHS

SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING ORGANIC FARMER/FARMER ORGANIZATION

Evaluation Score Sheet

INDICATORS	SCORES POINTS		
	Max. Score		TOTAL
I. FARMER	25		
A. Management Skills	10		
a. <i>Planning</i>	2		
- no farm plan	0		
- maintains at least two planning documents	1		
- with complete farm plan (implementation schedule and budget)	2		
b. <i>Resource generation</i>	3		
Maximize utilization of land, farm labor and capital			
- Underutilized	0		
- Fairly utilized	1		
- Fully utilized	3		
c. <i>Decision making ability</i>	2		
- Fair	.5		
- Good	1		
- Excellent	2		
d. <i>Market linkage establishment</i>	2		
- Within the community	.5		
- Local only	1		
- International only	1		
- Local and international	2		
e. <i>Product Innovation Ability</i>	1		
- Fair	.5		
- Good	.75		
- Excellent	1		
B. Technical Knowledge*	10		
a. Fertilization	2		
b. Insect pest and disease management	2		
c. Pollution Control	2		
d. Use of quality seeds/ planting materials	1		
- Organic seeds /planting materials sourced from accredited supplier			
- Inorganic seeds/planting materials sourced from non-accredited supplier			
e. Irrigation	1		
f. Weeding	1		
g. Postharvest Practices	1		
* Based on the Philippine Organic Agriculture Standards			
C. Record Keeping	5		
• Fair	1		

INDICATORS	SCORES POINTS		
	Max. Score		TOTAL
• Good	3		
• Excellent	5		
II. FARM	60		
A. Farm resource management	25		
<i>1. Land resources utilization</i>	5		
• Low intensity	1		
• Medium intensity	3		
• High intensity	5		
<i>2. Farm labor optimization</i>	5		
• Under utilized	1		
• Fairly utilized	3		
• Fully utilized	5		
<i>3. Capital allocation</i>	5		
• Under utilized	1		
• Fairly utilized	3		
• Fully utilized	5		
<i>4. Use of indigenous or local resources</i>	5		
• Under utilized	1		
• Fairly utilized	3		
• Fully utilized	5		
<i>5. Profitability (% ROI)</i>	5		
• Low (1.00-1.25)	1		
• Medium (1.51-1.75)	3		
• High (above 2.00)	5		
B. Farm condition	15		
1. Land use allocation	5		
• Fair	1		
• Good	3		
• Excellent	5		
2. Maintenance of farm facilities	5		
• Fair	1		
• Good	3		
• Excellent	5		
3. Crop stand/Animal health status	5		
• Fair	1		
• Good	3		
• Excellent	5		
C. Farming System	20		
1. Degree of Integration (Farm Diversification)	5		
• Two complementary enterprises	1		
• Three to four complementary enterprises	3		
• Five or more complementary enterprises	5		
2. Sustainability	10		
a. Soil and Water Conservation Practices (Use of erosion control systems, crop diversification systems, water saving technologies, good drainage system etc.)			

INDICATORS	SCORES POINTS		
	Max. Score		TOTAL
• 3 or more practices	10		
• 2 practices	6		
• 1 practice	2		
3. Replicability	5		
• Zero (0) farm adopts the farming system	0		
• One (1) farm adopt the farming system	3		
• Two (2) or more farms adopt the farming system	5		
III. SOCIAL IMPACT/FARMERS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY	15		
A. Involvement in the Community	7		
• Affiliation/involvement with agriculture-related community based organization (s)	4		
• Affiliation/involvement with civic or religious group/organization (s)	3		
B. Impact of his organic farm and technologies on the Community	8		
a. Farmer as trainor	3		
b. The farm as a model farm	3		
c. The farm generating jobs for community members	2		
TOTAL	100		