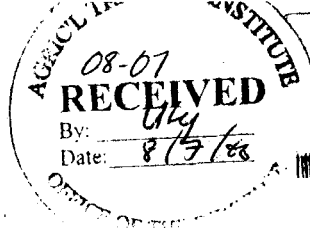




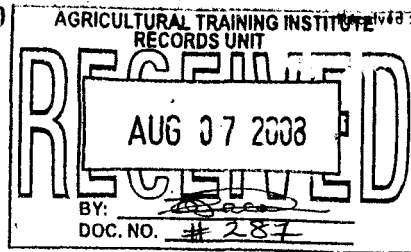
Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Office of the Secretary  
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER )**

No. 28 )  
Series of 2008 )



**SUBJECT: Designating the Agricultural Training Institute as Apex Agency for a Unified and Efficient Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System**

In the Interest of the service, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) is hereby designated as the national apex agency for extension of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in order to orchestrate the agriculture and fisheries extension system for a unified and efficient delivery of extension services in the country.

As such, the ATI shall take the lead role in the implementation of extension programs of the DA, including the management of extension funds to ensure that extension services achieve optimum results. It shall coordinate all national and local government extension programs in the national agriculture and fisheries extension system towards the achievement of the national goals of agriculture and fisheries. Specifically, ATI shall perform the following functions:

- Provide leadership in the development of national extension policies in agriculture and fisheries;
- Orchestrate the development of a national extension strategic plan for agriculture and fisheries to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the agriculture and fisheries modernization;
- Develop and implement national programs aimed at the continuous improvement of the quality of extension methods, products, and services towards a more efficient, participatory and client-responsive knowledge management system;
- Manage the national extension resources for agriculture and fisheries and ensure a sustainable and cost-effective system of funding public agriculture and fisheries information, education and communication (IEC);
- Provide leadership in the development and implementation of the National Agriculture & Fisheries Knowledge Network (NAFKN) of the Department through a system of partnerships that includes the LGUs, the academe, the civil society organizations (CSOs), stakeholders along the value chain, the rural-based organizations RBOs, and the private sector;
- Provide national leadership in developing extension partnerships towards increased investment and private sector participation;

- Team up with the state universities and colleges (SUCs) of agriculture/fisheries as key partners in the implementation of the national programs specially in the areas of extension innovations, national training, and monitoring and evaluation of extension institutions and programs; and
- Provide leadership in developing and implementing a national system of strengthening institutional extension capacities at all levels of implementation.

In the midst of today's global crisis brought about by the increasing prices of basic commodities and fuels and climate change, the role of extension is very crucial to mitigate their adverse effects on the agriculture and fisheries sector. This designation of the ATI is expected to make the national agriculture and fisheries extension system more responsive to global challenges and to ensure food security to the Filipinos.

This Administrative Order is issued to strengthen the mandated functions of ATI under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997. Any previous issuances that are inconsistent herewith are hereby declared null and void.

This Order shall take effect immediately and will remain in force until revoked.

  
**ARTHUR C. YAP**  
Secretary *jk*

July 29, 2008

*BKs*