



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES**  
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**Fisheries General Memorandum Order No. 2020-004**  
Series of 2020

**SUBJECT: Implementing Guidelines on the Cooperative- Managed Seaweed  
Nursery Business Enterprise Under Stimulus Package (Bayanihan II)**

Pursuant to the mandate of the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2), and the Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan 2015-2020 (CNFIDP 2015-2020), which targets to increase seaweed production by 5% annually, the implementing agency and project partners/beneficiaries shall follow this guidelines in the establishment, operation and maintenance of cooperative-managed seaweed nurseries.

### Chapter 1: Overview

**Section 1. Policy.** Under the Fisheries Office Order No. 151 series of 2018, the Regional Offices are mandated to operate at least two nurseries “to assure the ready supply of seedlings for distribution to target seaweed farmer individuals and cooperative/association in accordance to certain criteria.

The Cooperative-Managed Seaweeds Nursery Business Enterprise is in line with the Republic Act Number 11321, otherwise known as the Sagip Saka Act, establishes the "Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program", which refers to “the comprehensive set of objectives, targets, and holistic approach in promoting the establishment of enterprises involving agricultural and fishery products”.

Under this new innovation, BFAR will outsource the operation of seaweeds nurseries to partner cooperatives who will manage the nursery as a business enterprise. The propagules produced in the nursery will be sold to farmers based on prevailing prices at time of sale.

Fisheries Office Order (FOO) No. 151. Amending FOO No. 12 series of 2013 “Implementing Guidelines on the Establishment of Seaweed (Kappaphycus/Eucheuma) Nurseries, Conduct of Test Plots and Distribution of Seedlings and Farm Implements Undertake “MAS MASAGANANG SAKAHAN PANDAGAT – SEAWEED LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2017-2022” states that, The Cooperatives/Associations who availed of the farm implements, should repay (roll over scheme) the cost of the seedlings

Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Fisheries and  
Aquatic Resources  
(CENTRAL OFFICE)



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to BFAR. The fund shall then be to be flowed back to other seaweed farmers within the vicinity

**Section 2. Objectives.** The cooperative-managed Seaweed Nursery Business Enterprise under the Stimulus Package (Bayanihan II) is intended to increase the seaweed production by 5% and to improve the lives of seaweed farmers through:

- a. Outsourcing the management and operation of seaweed nurseries to partner cooperatives;
- b. Improving the income of farmers who sourced their propagules from the nursery with the cooperative buying back their harvests and marketing this collectively to processors leveraging the volume for better prices; and
- c. Gathering of production data from the nurseries which shall be used by BFAR as reference in the management decision to improve the industry.

**Section 3. Selection Criteria of Cooperative Partners.** The partner-cooperative shall be identified based on the following consideration:

- a. In the order of priority, the cooperative must be duly organized by BFAR with complete documentary requirements such as certificate of registration, certificate of compliance issued by the Cooperatives Development Authority, business permit, bank account, and to other pertinent documents;
- b. Willingness and capacity of the cooperative to manage and operate a seaweed nursery as business enterprise;
- c. Existence of Cooperative Management Team (COMAT)

## **Chapter 2: Management and Oversight**

**Section 4. Steering and Review Committee.** There shall be a Steering and Review Committee to monitor progress of implementation, review and revise the policies and strategies under this Guideline to further improve project implementation. The Committee shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson	:	Eduardo B. Gongona Director
Vice-Chair	:	Dr. Juan D. Albaladejo Assistant Director for Operations
Members	:	Atty. Demosthenes R. Escoto Assistant Director for Admin. Services and Legal Div. Chief  Abegail A. Albaladejo Chief, Fisheries Planning and Economics Division

Zaldy P. Perez  
Chief, Finance Management Division

**Section 5. *Technical Working Group.*** A TWG composed of the following shall be formed:

Chairperson : Elymi AR-J S. Tuñacao-OIC, Aquaculture Division

Vice –Chairperson : Demosthenes F. Togonon- Nat'l Coordinator, SDP

Members :

Wilfredo F. Fajardo-Cooperative Consultant  
Irma F. Ortiz-Project Development Officer III

Regional Seaweed Coordinators  
Regional Production & Planning Division

MIMAROPA,

RFO V

RFO VII

CARAGA

Provincial Fishery Officers

Northern Palawan

Southern Palawan

Albay

Sorsogon

Bohol

Surigao Sur

Province of Dinagat Island

The TWG shall:

- a. Meet quarterly, or as needed, to monitor implementation of this Guideline;
- b. Assist in the preparation of supplemental guidelines, as needed, and submit the same to the Steering and Review Committee for review and comment;
- c. Collate and analyze monitoring reports and make recommendations to the Steering and Review Committee.

**Section 6. *Roles and Responsibilities of BFAR.*** The BFAR shall:

- a. Ensure a more effective Seaweed Development Program by outsourcing seaweeds nurseries to a partner cooperative who will run this as a business enterprise;
- b. Transfer the total amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP500,000.00)

