

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Manila

August 28, 1985

MECS MEMORANDUM
No. 131, s. 1985

REVITALIZING SCHOOL FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAMS

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
National Nutrition Council Regional Coordinators
Regional Supervisors for Non-Formal Education
Vocational Education Supervisors
FF and FAP Coordinators

1. The need to increase productivity to help accelerate the country's economic recovery and improve the nutritional status of school children demands renewed efforts in improving school and home food production programs.
2. In view of this, all schools this school year 1985-86 shall give renewed emphasis to gardening and other forms of food production activities as part of the MECS Alay Tanim Program and the Kilusang Banting Bikap Movement. Action programs and activities with implementing guidelines spelled out in MECS Memoranda Nos. 57, 115 and 190, s. 1984 must be pursued with renewed vigor.
3. To improve local planning and ensure a more organized approach in each region, each MECS Regional Director, with the cooperation of other regional agencies, shall organize a Regional School Food Production Council with representatives from agricultural schools, state colleges and universities, private schools, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the National Food Authority and other agencies. The MECS Regional Director shall be responsible for identifying the Council members upon consultation with local authorities and for convening the Council for the first time to explain its role and preside over the election of its Chairman and other officers.
4. The Council shall be responsible for mapping the regional school food production program, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of participating institutions and identifying and enlisting the assistance of key individuals to help the Council in coordinating projects and undertaking monitoring and evaluation activities.
5. The Council shall identify institutions and/or create committees to take charge of the following essential components of the regional school food production program:
 - a. Enrichment of existing food production courses and/or offering of short training courses on food production, preservation and/or processing and marketing with emphasis on high priority commodities in the region.

- b. Development, production and distribution of teaching materials such as technoguides, leaflets and bulletins on farm practices, pest and disease control, food preparation and processing and the like.
- c. Production of seeds of superior varieties in identified seed production centers in agricultural schools or SCUs, or in experiment stations/seed farms of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
- d. Conduct of seminars and demonstrations of skills and techniques in composting and use of legumes (such as ipil-ipil leaves and Azolla) as substitutes for chemical fertilizers, and on control of pests and diseases using the integrated approach.
- e. Development of local water resources to meet the needs of school gardens.
- f. Establishment of pilot food preservation and processing laboratories for training and demonstration purposes as well as to absorb excess production that could not be marketed profitably.
- g. Organizing agricultural fairs or field days and various contests in food production and processing.
- h. Undertaking marketing studies and establishing or strengthening local organizations to take care of common problems, including marketing.
- i. Establishing linkages with banks and other possible sources of project financing as well as raising funds through various means to fund key projects and activities.

6. The local chapters of the Future Farmers of the Philippines (FFP) and the Future Agricultural Home Makers of the Philippines (FAHP) should be expanded and strengthened by encouraging memberships or associate memberships even from general secondary schools. The yearly FFP and FAHP projects and activities should be integrated in the overall program of the Council.

7. The Council should exert all efforts to improve coordinated planning to ensure the use of improved technologies and provision of essential production outputs. Additionally, the following pointers may be integrated into the overall food production program:

- a. For schools without land for gardening such as those in urban areas, other alternatives should be explored such as leasing an idle public land near the school, or concentrating on home gardening, or undertaking projects that do not require considerable space such as poultry and swine production and planting high value plants (tomatoes, eggplant, pepper, onions, garlic, etc.) in plastic bags, boxes, cans, etc. using proven techniques and practices (see MECs Memorandum No. 190, s. 1984).

- b. Planting winged beans (sigadillas or calamianis), pole beans, batao, patani, upo, patola and other climbers along fences or growing them on trellises to serve as source of food as well as shade or sunbaffles whenever desirable.
- c. Using malungay, caturay, cadiao, giant ipil-ipil and other leguminous trees for fencing and as source of human food, animal feed and fuel.
- d. Use of non-traditional food such as talinum (portulaca), cassava shoot tips, edible ferns, etc., as supplementary sources of vitamins.
- e. Culture of some medicinal plants along with food crops.
- f. Raising of easy-to-grow fruit trees such as calamansi, guava, jackfruit, atis and papaya as part of home gardens to supply the needs of the family.
- g. Promoting fish culture in flood-prone areas where water impounding is feasible, or integrating fish culture in lowland rice farming.

8. The MECS Regional Directors and the Council Chairmen shall exercise general supervision over, and monitor, all the activities of the School Food Production Program and shall render semi-annual progress reports to the Office of the Minister.

9. It is desired that this Order be given top priority attention.

(SGD.) JAIME C. LAYA
Minister

References:

MECS Memorandums: (Nos. 57, 115 and 190, s. 1984)

Attachment: 1-2-3-(D.O. 1-76)

indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

BLUE REVOLUTION
CAMPAIGN (FOOD PRODUCTION)
GREEN REVOLUTION
NUTRITION EDUCATION
PROGRAM, SCHOOL
REPORT

