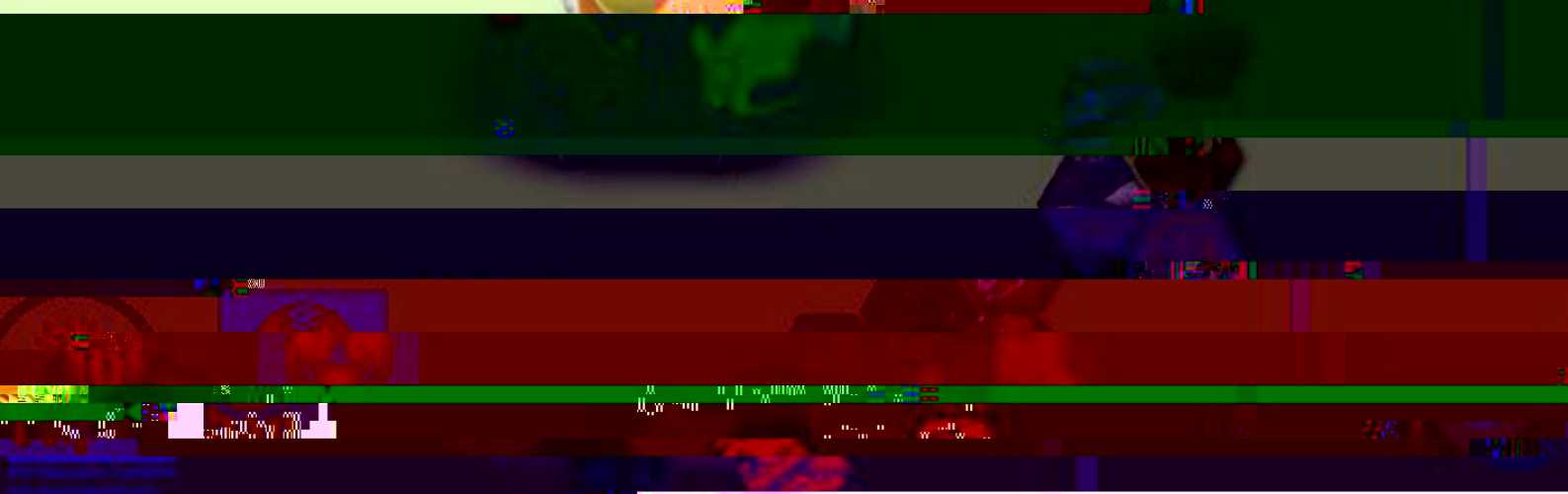


Participatory Governance



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**PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE IN AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT: AN EVALUATION
ON PCAF'S CONSULTATIVE BODIES**

Final Evaluation Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In-synch with democratic governance and participatory development principle and to ensure that the development programs of and for the agriculture and fisheries (A&F) sector are reflective of its stakeholders' demands and could address their needs, this qualitative evaluative study on the local (municipal, provincial/cities, and regional levels) A&F consultative council network, the National Sectoral Committees and the National Agricultural and Fisheries Council (NAF Council) was conducted nationwide from October 2015 to October 2016.

The conduct of the study was apt and timely since the new Duterte Administration encourages the A&F sector development, streamlines government organizations, simplifies bureaucratic operations and processes without sacrificing relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, positive impact, and sustainability.

The study's general objective was to assess the performance of the Philippine Council for

Specifically, the following are the AFCs' and the differently-leveled SCs' mandated functions and responsibilities:

- (1) to conduct public consultations to engage the public (agribusiness and civil society) and other agencies in the deliberation of issues affecting their respective sectors and in the development of policies, plans, and programs geared at the A&F sector development;
- (2) to coordinate and advocate for the: (a) identification and endorsement to appropriate agencies the plans and programs for the A&F sector (including sector agenda for the legislative bodies; (b) to assist the DA in mobilizing, coordinating (unifying), and monitoring the contributions of different agencies to the A&F modernization; (c) to provide information and feedback to the public regarding issues, plans and programs, and projects discussed at higher levels; and, (d) to promote consensus on and support for programs and projects for the A&F modernization;
- (3) to review the programs and budgeting for the DA and its attached agencies, and LGUs; and,
- (4) to assist the DA/LGUs in the monitoring and evaluation of plans and programs, and in the setting up of a feedback mechanism.

With the rationalized and expanded functions of PCAF and the transition to the Duterte Administration, the results of this evaluative study could be used to accomplish the following: (1) clarify PCAF functions and mandate in pursuing participatory governance; (2) define principles and guidelines for the creation and organization of the consultative bodies, including linkages for external coordination; and, (3) formulate operating guidelines, key performance areas, and internal management system.

For the AFC Profiling Survey, data collection efforts targeted 80 provinces and about 1,600 municipalities/cities. The survey covered securing basic demographic information on AFC officers (e.g., names, position and number of terms served in the AFC, age, educational attainment, profession, and contact details), organizational practices, institutional linkages, policy issuances, and programs/projects implemented. The AFC Profile Survey generated a response rate of 10% owing to some unavoidable and intervening circumstances such as the campaign for the 2016 national and local elections.

As regards the focus group discussions (FGDs), local-level FGDs were conducted from January to March 2016 at the regional (with representatives from selected provinces) and provincial (with representatives from selected municipalities) levels. For the regional FGDs, provinces were selected based on poverty incidence. At the provincial level, municipalities/cities were selected based on income-class groupings. In addition, three (3) FGDs at the national level were conducted with representatives from the PCAF Secretariat, government, and private sector representatives from the NSCs and the NAF Council.

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the AFCs unable to shepherd their initiatives through the project planning, programming, and budgeting processes in the government bureaucracy.

Also, the AFC representatives pointed out that resolutions endorsed to sector agencies are largely unacted upon. Likewise, the AFC members are frequently surprised to learn about sectoral projects being implemented within their communities that did not pass through Council review and deliberations. Frequently, AFCs are bypassed even in the selection of beneficiaries for national-level projects implemented within their area of jurisdiction.

Sustainability is concerned with whether the benefits of an initiative will continue to be generated even after seed funding has been withdrawn.

In the case of the consultative bodies, the sustainability factor would have to address the continuity of the institutions themselves. But the lack of resources and funding support to carry out even the mandated function of consulting the sector's stakeholders cannot be conducted. Volunteers have to use personal resources to attend meetings and other AFC activities. This situation effectively disenfranchises struggling small farmers/fisheries organizations and favors bigger and more successful groups and individuals who have the resources to attend the AFC activities.

Furthermore, succession planning cannot be guaranteed since the majority (60%) of the AFCs and SC members are in their senior age (51 years old and older) as shown by the result of the profiling survey. This is compounded by the data that the younger generations are taking less interest in agriculture, and therefore, only a smaller pool of younger candidates/representatives can be mobilized to continue the mandated AFC work. It is imperative that younger representatives be recruited to ensure continuity of the consultative organizations.

Based on the above-cited findings, it is concluded that there is a need to strengthen the consultative bodies through government support and processes imperatives so that the AFCs and the SCs will be able to discharge their respective mandated functions and duties as decision-making conduits not only for the DA, but for the LGUs, other line government agencies, and even the private sector which has also a stake in the country's A&F sector development.

On that note, the following specific recommendations are forwarded: (1) review representation/membership of the consultative bodies; (2) re-define functions and internal linkages; (3) establish internal rules and procedures; (4) synchronize calendar of activities; (5) establish both vertical and horizontal linkages; and (6) expand the roles and participation of the AFCs in monitoring and evaluation of the A&F development activities, projects, and

Furthermore, it is recommended that:

- (1) a mechanism for the granting of incentives (e.g., inclusion in the Good Housekeeping criteria as recognition of AFC importance in local development of the sector and in the requirements for qualifying the LGU for the local level performance-based bonus or PBB) to encourage the LGUs in recognizing the role of the AFCs in policy-making, planning, and preparing budgets at the local level be developed;
- (2) the existing reco-9(r)6(i)4meveloped;