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I. Impacts of Climate Change in Philippine Agriculture

The Philippine agriculture is traditionally exposed to the many hazards and risks from typhoons and droughts even before the onset of climate change. The threat that climate change brings range from (a) change in rainfall patterns – the usual season for planting certain crops is no longer suitable for the crop, (b) increase temperatures – crop, aquaculture and livestock yields are reduced, pest pressures increases, and resurgence of new pests, (c) increase in the frequency and intensity of typhoons and dry spells – flooding and strong winds damage crops, livestock, and fisheries production, dry spells or drought keep crops from achieving full production, poultry houses and pigpens suffer from the lack of electricity and being blown by strong winds, (d) rise in sea levels – reduces coastal areas productive for agriculture and fisheries and causes more flooding, and intrusion of salt water in the lowlands and aquifers being used for irrigation and domestic consumption.

II. Department of Agriculture's (DA) Proposed Policy Framework on Climate Change

To address the above impacts, the Department of Agriculture is formulating policy substitutes for adaptation and mitigation, including anticipation of climate changes. Climate change concerns should be integrated in all areas of public policy, particularly in research, economics and social policies. This means addressing possible conflicts or trade-offs on policies with potential “co-benefits”. The co-benefits of GHG adaptation and mitigation actions can include improved agricultural and fishery practices, energy security, air quality improvement and human health benefits. The proposed DA policy framework on climate change consists of five major considerations:

1. All DA programs shall take into consideration the risk of climate change to agriculture and fisheries production, and to the rural families that live upon these vulnerable areas.
2. As expressed in the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC), the proposed DA policy program on climate change is anchored on two pillars, mitigation and adaptation, with adaptation as the anchor strategy and mitigation measures as a function of adaptation. In addition, the DA is also focusing on anticipatory measures and strategies on impacts of climate change.
3. Also, as clearly stated in the NFSCC, the program is risk-based. The agriculture and fisheries sector are no stranger to the risks as weather disturbances are familiar causes of disruption of food production. In addition to the regular environmental challenges, climate change impacts put another class of constraints and risks to food production and distribution systems.
4. The list of risks, corresponding adverse impacts, possible adaptation strategies, possible mitigation measures, and possible government action to address the adverse impacts of climate change is presented in **Annex 1**.
5. The possible government actions on adaptation and mitigation, and the policy instruments to carry out the actions are shown in **Annex 2**.