



*Technical Report*

# Legal Parameters in the Administration of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in the Philippines

by Cesar Virata and Associates (CVAI)

**Prepared for**

**Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano  
Department of Agriculture  
Republic of the Philippines**

**Submitted for review to**

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# Preface

This report is the result of technical assistance provided by the Economic Modernization through Efficient Reforms and Governance Enhancement (EMERGE) Activity, under contract with the CARANA Corporation, Nathan Associates Inc. and The Peoples Group (TRG) to the United States Agency for International Development, Manila, Philippines (USAID/Philippines) (Contract No. AFP-I-00-00-03-00020 Delivery Order 800). The EMERGE Activity is intended to contribute towards the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) and USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 2, "Investment Climate Less Constrained by Corruption and Poor Governance." The purpose of the activity is to provide technical assistance to support economic policy reforms that will cause sustainable economic growth and enhance the competitiveness of the Philippine economy by augmenting the efforts of Philippine pro-reform partners and stakeholders.

Aware that the administration of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations in the Department of Agriculture (DA) is characterized by several dysfunctions at the legal, organizational and procedural levels, DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano requested technical assistance (TA) from USAID's Economic Modernization through Efficient Reforms and Governance Enhancement (EMERGE) Project to help streamline DA SPS administration. In response, EMERGE commissioned Cesar Virata and Associates (CVAI) to mobilize a team of six experts, one each in agricultural policy, legislative matters, organizational development, systems, institutional reform, and communication (Ms. Beulah de la Pena, Atty. Elizabeth Macaibay, Ms. Irene Villapando, Mr. Gerry Gazmen, Ms. Marinella Castillo and Mr. Benedicto Rayco), to provide the TA.

The Project Team was tasked to work with an interagency SPS Task Force consisting of selected DA officials on the diagnostics module of the TA. This module has the following outputs: 1) A Report on SPS Regulations and their Importance to Trade, 2) A Report on The Legal Parameters in the Administration of SPS Systems, 3) A Report on The Organizational System for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Administration, 4) A Report on The Business Processes in SPS, 5) A Report on Change Management, and 6) a summary, Integrative Report. (The DA has requested that the Report on Change Management not be distributed or released to the public.)

The views expressed and opinions contained in this publication are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of USAID, the GRP, EMERGE or the authors' parent organization.

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# **LEGAL PARAMETERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES IN THE PHILIPPINES\***

## **BACKGROUND SETTING**

Trade liberalization correspondingly called for the proper adoption and enforcement of measures necessary to protect human, animal, and plant life and health. These sanitary (human and animal health) and phytosanitary (plant health) measures are adopted, maintained and enforced to ensure that the food is safe for consumers and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants.

As signatory to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 which agreement includes an Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the Philippines has the right to set the level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection it sees fit for the protection of human, animal and plant life or health provided that the same is not applied in a manner which would constitute as a disguised restriction on international trade.

There are international standards, guidelines and recommendations on the matter particularly: 1) for food safety established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an inter-governmental body open to members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) and/or World Health Organization (WHO); 2) for animal health and zoonoses developed under the auspices of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) [a.k.a. World Animal Health Organization]; and 3) for plant health developed under the auspices of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). While the SPS Agreement recognizes these international standards and the Philippines is a member to these international organizations, the same are considered “voluntary” standards and not legally binding so that World Trade Organization (WTO) members like the Philippines may or may not opt to adopt them. In fact, SPS measures higher than the international norms may even be imposed but such measures must be based upon risk assessments.

The SPS Agreement however encourages governments to “harmonize” or base their national measures on these standards as these are developed by WTO member governments in said international organizations.

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*By Eliza Beth B. Macaibay for the CVAI under EMERGE SPS Project*

The proper adoption and enforcement of these measures therefore underscores the importance of the rationalization of the responsibilities and functions of the government agencies and bodies tasked to formulate, establish and implement the SPS measures.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND PRESENT GOVERNMENT SET-UP TASKED TO HANDLE SPS MEASURES AS PROVIDED FOR BY LAW

An inventory of Philippine legal instruments on government agencies and bodies tasked to adopt and enforce SPS measures appear to show a multiplicity of government actions found to be overlapping, redundant and superficial resulting not only in additional governmental expenditures but also in overregulation and operational inefficiency. A selected list of said Philippine legal instruments is hereto attached as Annex “A” with the actual legal instruments or pertinent provisions thereto likewise attached.

### *Delineation of Areas of Responsibility*

The Bureau of Animal Industry and Bureau of Plant Industry were both created way back 1929 by virtue of Act No. 3639 (December 7, 1929) with seemingly limited mandate in that the Bureau of Animal Industry was solely confined to measures to protect animal life or health while the Bureau of Plant Industry was confined to implement measures to protect plant resources from harmful pests. Their respective mandates did not expressly include implementation of measures to protect human life or health. Thus, a glaring gap in their respective mandates is well to note.

Table 1. SEEMINGLY LIMITED MANDATE - GAP

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY	BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
Animal quarantine and inspection to prevent and cure dangerous communicable diseases among the animals [Act 3639 (Dec. 7, 1929)]  (Solely confined to measures to protect animal life or health. Silent on implementation of measures to protect human and plant life)	Implement quarantine rules and regulations to restrict import of plants, plant products, soils, packing materials of plant origin capable of harboring and are sources of infection/infestation of plant pests. [Act 3639 (Dec. 7, 1929) and P.D. No. 1433 a.k.a. Plant Quarantine Decree of 1978]  (Solely confined to phytosanitary measures – measures implemented to protect plant resources from harmful pests. Silent on implementation of measures to protect human and animal life or health)

On the other hand, the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 (Executive Order No. 292) particularly Book IV, Title IV on Agriculture provided for a delineation of the adoption and handling of SPS measures (referred in the Code as quarantine laws, rules

and regulations) depending upon the products involved, thus : 1) in case of livestock, poultry and dairy, the same were placed within the area of responsibility of the Bureau of Animal Industry; 2) for agricultural crops, the Bureau of Plant Industry; 3) for fishery and aquatic resources, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and 4) for animals for slaughter, carcasses and meat establishments, the National Meat Inspection Commission. The same executive order, however, also provided that the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture had the duty and responsibility within their respective administrative region to implement and enforce plant and animal quarantine laws, rules and regulations.

In 1990, Executive Order No. 430 was passed creating the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines. It has among its functions : 1) the formulation and review of national policies and guidelines on biosafety for the protection of public health and supervision of the implementation of the same and 2) develop working arrangements with the government quarantine services and institutions in the evaluation, monitoring and review of projects vis-à-vis adherence to national policies and guidelines on biosafety.

#### ***Decentralization to Local Government Units***

With the passage of the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160), the function and responsibility of the above bureaus particularly the agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities including for the prevention and control of plant and animal pests and disease was devolved or conferred upon the local government units particularly the cities and provinces. The corresponding Department of Agriculture (DA) Order (DA Department Order No. 3-92, series of 1992) stated however that the regulatory power for quarantine purposes remained with the DA.

The inconsistency of this DA Order with the law is heightened by the charters of cities which uniformly provide that the “Sangguniang Panlungsod has the authority to approve measures and adopt quarantine regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases.”

#### ***Regionalization in the adoption and enforcement of SPS measures***

The regionalization of the adoption and enforcement of SPS measures was carried even to the Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone. Republic Act No. 7227 creating the zone provided that all quarantine laws were deemed subordinated to and/or liberally construed in favor of the SBF to enhance and promote the policies of the special economic and freeport system within the boundaries established by the law and its corresponding rules and regulations. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) was empowered to establish rules and procedures necessary to carry out human, animal, plant health and quarantine laws and regulations within the zone. Moreover, said laws shall be carried out inside the zone by personnel of Philippine government agencies responsible for administering the same under the supervision of the SBMA.

In the case of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the autonomous regional government was empowered to administer all quarantine laws and food safety laws provided that the national department retained control over all matters concerning quarantine and food regulation.

Table 2. DEVOLUTION OF FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN ADMINISTRATION OF SPS MEASURES

PROVINCES AND CITIES	AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MUSLIM MINDANAO	SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA)
<p>Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which include the prevention and control of plants and animal pests and diseases, livestock markets</p> <p>Regional offices of said national offices shall be phased out and in their stead, field units may be established for monitoring and providing technical assistance. Personnel of said national agencies shall be absorbed in whose areas they are assigned.</p> <p>(R.A. 7160 a.k.a. Local Government Code of 1991)</p> <p>Note : In response, the DA issued A.O. 3-92 (June 12, 1992) basically providing for the retention with the DA the regulation for quarantine purposes</p>	<p>Issue clearance for importation and exportation of fishery and agricultural commodities in accordance with existing guidelines, laws, rules and regulations</p> <p>Promulgation of rules, regulations and other issuances relative to agricultural and fishery and exercise of supervision and control over all functions and activities pertaining to agriculture, fisheries and aquatic resources</p> <p>Technical assistance to be provided by the DA bureaus</p> <p>[E.O. 460 (May 17, 1991)]</p>	<p>SBMA shall establish rules and procedures to carry out human, animal, plant health and quarantine laws within the Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone</p> <p>Personnel of agencies for administering those laws shall be under the supervision of the SBMA</p> <p>(R.A. 7227 a.k.a. Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992)</p>

### ***Myriad of Regulatory Agencies***

In 1992, the Consumer Act of the Philippines (R.A. 7394) provided for overlapping coverage in that the Department of Health was tasked to ensure consumer product quality and safety of food which was defined to mean any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw and the Department of Agriculture was tasked to ensure consumer product quality and safety of agricultural products.

Table 3. OVERLAPPING COVERAGE OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES TO ENSURE CONSUMER PRODUCT QUALITY AND SAFETY UNDER THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES (R.A. 7394), ART. 6

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD – defined under the said Act, Sec. 4, (ag) to mean <b>any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, intended for human consumption</b> (Bold scoring supplied)	PRODUCTS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Further, the Consumer Act reposed on the Bureau of Food and Drug and the Department of Agriculture the enforcement of the provisions of the said Act. In the case of the Department of Agriculture, it reposed upon it the provisions of the said act and its implementing rules and regulations as to agricultural products. It was expressly tasked to establish consumer product quality and safety standards, adopt existing standards or in the absence of the same, form specialized technical committees to formulate, develop and propose consumer product quality and safety standards.

There are several government agencies and bodies, aside from the local government units, presently tasked to adopt and enforce SPS measures.

As earlier stated, for adoption and enforcement of phytosanitary measures, there is the Bureau of Plant Industry which was created by virtue of Act No. 3639 (January 1, 1930). It was then created to take over tasks of plant research and crop production. Its Plant Quarantine Services is the one particularly tasked to oversee the enforcement of these measures as provided for under the “Plant Quarantine Law of 1978” (Presidential Decree No. 1433).

For adoption and enforcement of sanitary measures, there are, among others, the following : the Bureau of Animal Industry which was likewise created by virtue of Act No. 3639 and the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) now National Meat Inspection Service which was first established by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 7 (September 30, 1972).

There are instances though where there appears to be seemingly misplaced product coverage as feeds and feeding stuffs have been placed under the coverage of the Bureau of Animal Industry as provided for under the Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act (Republic Act No. 1556) while certain species of animals which are liable to become agricultural pests have been placed under the coverage of the Bureau of Plant Industry under the Revised Administrative Code of 1987.



Table 4. SEEMINGLY MISPLACED PRODUCT COVERAGE

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY	BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
In general, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND DAIRY (E.O. 292 a.k.a. Revised Admin. Code of 1987)	In general, AGRICULTURAL CROPS (E.O. 292 a.k.a. Revised Admin. Code of 1987)
Exception : Feeds and Feeding Stuffs under the BAI (R.A. 1556 a.k.a. Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act)	Exception : Certain species of animals which are liable to become agricultural pests (Sec. 28 of E.O. 292 a.k.a. Revised Admin. Code of 1987)

### *Expansion of Mandate*

The Bureau of Animal Industry, under the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, has supervision and regulatory power over the establishment and operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating or training of all animals.

The NMIS (then NMIC) was initially tasked to promulgate, with the then Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources approval, specific policies and procedures governing flow of livestock and livestock products through the various stages of marketing and the proper preservation and inspection of such products. The mandate of the National Meat Inspection Commission, now renamed National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) has been expanded and strengthened with the passage of Republic Act No. 9296 (May 12, 2004), also known as “The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines”. It is now the sole national controlling authority on all matters pertaining to meat and meat product inspection and meat hygiene. It is a specialized regulatory service attached to the Department of Agriculture.

Table 5. SEEMINGLY OVERLAPPING PRODUCT COVERAGE AND DUPLICITY OF FUNCTION

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY	NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE
In general, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND DAIRY (E.O. 292 a.k.a. Revised Admin. Code of 1987)	In general, animals for slaughter, carcasses and meat establishments (E.O. 292 a.k.a. Revised Admin. Code of 1987)
(Note : However, The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines (R.A. 9296), secs. 28-29 expressly recognizes the veterinary quarantine clearance issued by the BAI as separate and distinct from the NMIS certificate.	

### *Non-realization of Mandate*

Republic Act No. 9296 effectively weakens the provisions of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997 where the centralization of the adoption

and enforcement of SPS measures was envisioned with the creation of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS). It is tasked, among others, to formulate and enforce standards of quality of agricultural and fisheries products and to conduct inspection of places where the products are found.

While the law clearly provided the above-stated mandate of the BAFPS, the same is not reflected in the earlier issued Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 17, series of 1998 as amended by Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2000 providing for the establishment of the BAFPS. A perusal of said AOs would show that the BAFPS while empowered under the law to enforce standards had instead been tasked to “recommend to the Secretary the designation of appropriate agencies empowered to enforce the regulatory provisions of RA 8435, consistent with existing laws”. (Administrative Order No. 17, s. 1998, section 6.12)

Thus, BAFPS’ mandate, powers and functions clearly overlap with those of others.

Table 6. OVERLAPPING MANDATES

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards	National Meat Inspection Service	Department of Health
Formulate and enforce standards of quality in the processing, preservation, packaging labeling, importation, exportation, distribution and advertising of agricultural and fisheries products	Formulate and issue with appropriate LGUs safety and quality standards for meat and meat products in consultation with product standard setting agencies	<p>Bureau of Food and Drugs – Analyze and inspect food, drug and cosmetics to establish standards and quality measures for said products (Food defined as article used for or article used for components of any food or drink for man) [Sec. 4 of R.A. 3720 in relation to Sec. 4 of E.O. No. 851 (1982)]</p> <p>Under the Bureau of Quarantine, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations for the protection of public health including destruction of animals and cargoes found to be sources of infection to human beings in coordination with other concerned quarantine agencies (R.A. 9271 a.k.a. Quarantine Act of 2004)</p>

Table 7. OVERLAPPING FUNCTIONS

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards	National Meat Inspection Service	Department of Health	Local Government Units
<p>Conduct regular inspection of processing plants, storage facilities, abattoirs, as well as public and private markets in order to ensure freshness, safety and quality of products</p> <p>(Sec. 63 of R.A. 8435 a.k.a. AFMA of 1997)</p>	<p>The inspectors shall conduct an examination and inspection to meat establishments (defined under the law as premises such as slaughterhouses, poultry dressing plants, meat processing plants, cold storage, among others)</p> <p>(Sec. 26 of R.A. 9296 a.k.a. The Meat Inspection Code of the Phils.)</p>	<p>Local health authority has the right to inspect markets and abattoirs</p> <p>(P.D. 856 a.k.a. Code on Sanitation of the Philippines)</p>	<p>Basic Service – public markets and slaughterhouses</p> <p>(R.A. 7160 a.k.a. Local Government Code of 1991)</p>

Table 8. OVERLAPPING MANDATES ON EXPORT SUPPORT

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards	Export Development Council
<p>Conduct research on product standardization, alignment of the local standards with international standards</p> <p>(Sec. 63 of R.A. 8435 a.k.a. AFMA of 1997)</p>	<p>Ensure export quality control be overseeing the formulation and implementation of quality control guidelines by appropriate agencies to make Philippine exports at par with world-class products</p> <p>(R.A. 7844 a.k.a. Export Development Act of 1994)</p>

Further, BAFPS is operational but the envisioned centralization has been dashed with the passage of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Animal Welfare Act of 1998, the Cotton Industry Development Law of 1998 and now Republic Act No. 9296.

The Fisheries Code provided for the reconstitution of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources as a line bureau under the DA tasked to implement an inspection system for import and export of fishery/aquatic products and fish processing establishments consistent with international standards to ensure product quality and safety.

#### *Specialized / Commodity Based Agencies and Committees*

Administration of SPS measures is further confused with the creation of “specialized / commodity-based” agencies as well as committees tasked to look into the same.

There is, among others, the Cotton Development Administration (CODA). It was created by virtue of the Cotton Industry Development Law and therein empowered to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to govern cotton production including pest control and other quarantine measures.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), under the Coconut Preservation Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 8048) is tasked to look into disease infestation in coconut trees.

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority is tasked to establish and implement regulations governing import and export of fertilizer and fertilizer inputs under Presidential Decree No. 1144, May 30, 1977 while the Abaca Industry Development Authority is tasked to regulate research, production, processing and marketing of abaca in both the domestic and international markets as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 1208.

Table 9. OVERLAPPING PRODUCTS AND FOCUS DUE TO CREATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Bureau of Plant Industry	Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)	Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority	Abaca Industry Development Authority	National Committee on Biosafety (attached to the Dept. of Science and Technology)
<p>Responsible for protection of agricultural crops from pests and diseases (E.O. 292 a.k.a. Rev. Admi. Code of 1987)</p> <p>Pesticide Analytical Laboratories under the BPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-determine pesticide residues in agricultural products to protect consumers</li> <li>-requiring cooperation and coordination with Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (LOI 986)</li> </ul>	<p>Quarantined coconut trees shall be disposed under supervision of PCA Agriculturist (R.A. 8048 a.k.a. Coconut Preservation Act of 1995)</p>	<p>Pesticides, fertilizers and other agricultural chemical inputs</p> <p>Establish and implement regulations governing import and export of fertilizer and fertilizer inputs (P.D. 1144, May 30, 1977)</p>	<p>Regulate research, production, processing and marketing of abaca in both the domestic and international markets when necessary (P.D. 1208 creating the Abaca Industry Development Authority)</p>	<p>Develop working arrangements with government quarantine services and institutions, monitoring and review as to adherence to policies and guidelines on biosafety</p> <p>Assist in development of technical expertise, facilities and other resources for quarantine services and risk assessments</p> <p>(Sec. 4 of E.O. 430)</p>

There is the Committee on Animal Welfare tasked to issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (R.A. 8485) including the setting up of safety and sanitary standards.

### *Conclusion*

The continued confusion on which agency or body is tasked to look into SPS measures has long been noted as made manifest in a September 7, 1998 Memorandum from the President whereby the Secretaries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry and Health as well as the Director-General of the National Economic Development Authority were directed to form a study group to review the proposed imposition of quarantine measures on animals and meat imports and the passage of Executive Order No. 162 in 1999 as it provides for the reorientation of the functions and operations of the Department of Agriculture.

But the confusion continues amidst the myriad of laws and administrative orders. The same has set-up the situation where there is clearly an overlapping, redundant and superficial exercise of functions among the various government agencies, bodies and units thus underscoring the urgent need for drafting laws, executive orders and/or administrative orders that would allow harmonization of said laws and provide a clear delineation of functions.

## ANNEX “A”

### INVENTORY OF PHILIPPINE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS, TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AND AGENCIES / BODIES TASKED TO ADOPT AND ENFORCE THE SAME

1. Act 3639 (December 7, 1929) creating the Bureau of Animal Industry and Bureau of Plant Industry
2. Revised Administrative Code of 1987 (Executive Order No. 292 signed on July 25, 1987 and effective on November 24, 1989) particularly Book IV, Title IV on Agriculture
3. Executive Order No. 430 (October 15, 1990) constituting the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) and for other purposes
4. Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160 signed on October 10, 1991 and effective on January 1, 1992) particularly Section 17
  - Rules and Regulations Implementing the Local Government Code of 1991 particularly Rule V, Articles 24 – 25
  - DA Department Order No. 3-92 (June 12, 1992) – Implementing Rules and Regulations applicable to the Department of Agriculture and its relations with the local government units on the performance of the functions of planning and policy formulation, research, regulation and technology transfer and training
5. Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992 (Republic Act No. 7227)
  - Rules and Regulations Implementing the provisions relative to the Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority under Republic Act No. 7227, otherwise known as the “Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992” (November 3, 1992) particularly Chapter VII, Sections 76-78.
6. Consumer Act of the Philippines [Republic Act No. 7394 (1992)] particularly Chapter 1 on Consumer Product Quality and Safety
7. Food, Drugs and Devices and Cosmetics Act [Republic Act No. 3720 (1980)]
8. Quarantine Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9271)

9. Executive Order No. 460 (May 17, 1991) – Devolving to the Autonomous Regional Government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao the powers and functions of the Department of Agriculture the control, and supervision over its offices in the region and for other purposes - particularly Section 1 (i) j (a)
10. Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8435 – December 1997) particularly Sections 51, 60-64
  - Implementing Rules and Regulations (DA Administrative Order No. 6, July 10, 1998) particularly Rules 51.1, 61.1 – 64.4
11. The Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (Republic Act No. 8485, February 11, 1998)
12. Cotton Industry Development Law of 1998 (Republic Act No. 8486, February 11, 1998) particularly Sections 2 and 5 (d)
13. Creating the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority and Abolishing the Fertilizer Industry Authority (Presidential Decree No. 1144)
14. Creating the Abaca Industry Development Authority [Presidential Decree No. 1208 (1977)]
15. Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act [Republic Act No. 1556 (1956)]
16. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 particularly the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
17. International Plant Protection Convention – a multilateral treaty where the Philippines is a contracting party. This international agreement is administered through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)
18. Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 17, series of 1998 providing for the Establishment of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS)
19. Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2000 amending Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 17, series of 1998 providing for the Establishment of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS)
20. Presidential Decree No. 1433 – Promulgating the Plant Quarantine Law of 1978, thereby revising and consolidating existing plant quarantine laws to further improve and strengthen the Plant Quarantine Service of the Bureau of Plant Industry

- BPI Quarantine A.O. No. 1, Series of 1981 – Rules and Regulations to Implement Presidential Decree No. 1433
21. Republic Act No. 9296 ( May 12, 2004) – An Act strengthening the meat inspection service in the country, ordaining for this purpose a “Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines” and for other purposes.
- Department of Agriculture, Administrative Order No. 28, series of 2005 – Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9296
  - Administrative Order No. 25, series of 2005 – Guidelines on the Certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for fruits and vegetable (FV) Farming
  - Administrative Order No. 26, series of 2005 – Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines