



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Norte
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN NICOLAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 8TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN NICOLAS, ILOCOS NORTE HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL SESSION HALL ON THE 29TH DAY OF APRIL, 2013 AT 09:30 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

PRESENT:

Hon. Maria Teresa Valdez-Barrett	Vice-Mayor/Presiding Officer;
Hon. Aladine T. Santos	Member;
Hon. Efren C. Butay	Member;
Hon. Tenny A. Badua	Member;
Hon. Luciano R. Caraang	Member;
Hon. Angelo B. Ilaga	Member;
Hon. Oscar V. Domingo	Member;
Hon. Edilon D. Ruiz	Member/PPSK President.

ABSENT:

Hon. Norberto S. Dadiz, Jr.	Member;
Hon. Rodolfo B. Mamaclay	Member;
Hon. Angel Miguel L. Hernando	Member/Liga ng mga Barangay President.

“MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2013-09

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN NICOLAS, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte in session duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This ordinance shall be known as an “Ordinance Institutionalizing Organic Agriculture in the Municipality of San Nicolas, Province of Ilocos Norte and for other purposes.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the municipality to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the municipality that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, and save on imported farm inputs. Towards this end, a comprehensive program for the promotion of community-based organic agriculture systems which include, among others, farmer-produced purely organic fertilizers such as compost, pesticides and other farm inputs, together with a nationwide educational and promotional campaign for their use and processing as well as adoption of organic agriculture system as a viable alternative shall be undertaken.

The municipality recognizes and supports the central role of the farmers, indigenous people and other stakeholders at the grassroots in this program.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) Organic refers to the particular farming and processing system, described in the standards and not in the classical chemical sense. The term "organic" is synonymous in other languages to "biological" or "ecological". It is also a labeling term that denotes products considered organic based on the Philippine National Standards for organic agriculture.
- (b) Organic agriculture includes all agricultural systems that promote the ecologically sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible production of food and fibers. Organic agricultural dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. It also covers areas such as, but

not limited to, soil fertility management, varietal breeding and selection under chemical and pesticide-free conditions, the use of biotechnology and other cultural practices that are consistent with the principles and policies of this Act, and enhance productivity without destroying the soil and harming farmers, consumers and the environment as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement (IFOAM): *Provided*, That the biotechnology herein to shall not include genetically modified organisms of GMOs.

- (c) Organic production system is a system designed to:
- (1) enhance biological diversity within the whole system;
 - (2) increase soil biological activity;
 - (3) maintain long-term soil fertility;
 - (4) recycle wastes of plant and animal origin in order to return nutrients to the land, thus minimizing the use of nonrenewable resources;
 - (5) rely on renewable resources in locally organized agricultural system;
 - (6) promote the healthy use of soil, water and air as well as minimize all forms of pollution thereto that may result from agricultural practices;
 - (7) develop and promote the use of biotechnology in agriculture;
 - (8) handle agricultural products with emphasis on careful processing methods in order to maintain the organic integrity and vital qualities of the product at all stages; and
 - (9) become established on any existing farm through a period of convention, the appropriate length of which is determined by site-specific factors such as the history of the land, and type of crops and livestock to be produced.
- (d) Conversion period refers to the time between the start of the organic management and the certification of crops, animal husbandry or a aquaculture products as organic.
- (e) Biodegradable wastes refer to organic matter for compost/ organic fertilizer for the organic cultivation, farming of food crops and includes discards segregated farm nonbiodegradable wastes coming from the kitchen/household (leftovers, vegetables and fruit peelings and trims, fish/fowl cleanings, seeds, bones, soft paper used as food wrap and the like), yard or garden (leaves, grasses, weeds and twigs), market (wilted, decayed or rotten vegetables and fruits, fish/fowl cleanings, bones) and farm wastes (grass clippings, dead or decayed plants, leaves, fruits, vegetables, branches, twigs and the like).
- (f) Ecologically-sound refers to a state, quality or condition of a product, practice, system, development mode, culture, environment and the like, in accord with the 1987 Philippine Constitution, and as expounded in the above definition of organic agriculture.
- (g) Commercialization is process of including a new agricultural and fishery technology either as product, process or service that has undergone the intensive innovative activities of assessment, promotion and transfer for economic benefit.
- (h) Certification is the procedure by which official certification bodies or officially recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that foods or food control systems conform to requirements.
- (i) Accreditation is the procedure by which a government agency having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an inspection and/or certification body to provide inspection and certification services.

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- (j) First party certification is defined as when the certification criteria and rules are set and monitor/enforced by the producer or company itself.
- (k) Second party certification is defined as when the certification criteria and rules are set by buyers or industry organizations.
- (l) Third party certification or independent certification is defined as when the firm requires that its supplies meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the business relationship to control the compliance of the suppliers.
- (m) Organic food establishment refers to an entity, whether local or foreign, that produces inputs acceptable for organic agriculture.

SECTION 4. Coverage. - The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the development and promotion of organic agriculture and shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Policy formulation on regulation, registration, accreditation, certification and labeling on organic agriculture;
- (b) Research, development and extension of appropriate, sustainable environment and gender-friendly organic agriculture;
- (c) Promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other appropriate farm inputs; and
- (d) Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with focus on the farmers and other stakeholders.

SECTION 5. Organic Agriculture Programs. - Organic Agriculture programs shall have the following implementing rules:

- (a) To promote and develop commercialization of organic farming practices;
- (b) To continue to research and upgrade for the better improvements of the programs;
- (c) c. To help improve the capacity building of farmers and the education of consumers;
- (d) d. To extend assistance to all stakeholders including individuals and groups who are practicing and promoting the methods as well as those who are willing to do other pertinent activities and documentation and evaluations of the program.

SECTION 6. Establishment of Municipal Technical Committee. – The Municipal Technical Committee is hereby established with the following compositions:

- Chairperson : Municipal Mayor
- Vice-Chairperson : Municipal Agriculture Officer
- Members : SB Committee Chair on Agriculture
Local Government Operation Officer, DILG
DENR Representative
Public Schools District Supervisor, DepEd
Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer
Municipal Health Officer
Three Representatives from small farmers, to be drawn though their own process of selection
Representative from the NGOs involved in sustainable agriculture for the last three years, to be drawn though their own process of selection



Representative from the private sector or agribusiness
drawn through their own process of selection
Representative from the consumers' group, to be
drawn through their own process of selection

SECTION 7. Powers and Functions of the Committee. - The Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to develop and promote organic agriculture program;
- (b) Oversee the successful implementation of the programs;
- (c) Identify source of financing to expand;
- (d) Monitor and evaluate the performance of the programs and appropriate incentives;
- (e) Undertake measures for national recognition of local certification of organic products and organic farm sites;
- (f) Call concerned sectors that could provide advice on matters pertaining to organic agriculture and to conduct of capability-building initiatives to farmers;
- (g) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out effectively its purposes and objectives;
- (h) Perform such functions as may be necessary for its effective operations and for the continued enhancement, growth, or development of organic agriculture;
- (i) Organize educational seminars and assist farmer groups in implementing the program;
- (j) Coordinate and facilitate the application and availments of loans from the DA and other financing institution;
- (k) Arrange possible joint venture agreement between the land owners and farmers, financiers and agrarian reform beneficiaries;
- (l) Form farmer association, train, lead, professionalize the group for a more collaborative and efficient business model;
- (m) Ensure that farmers are the direct beneficiaries and not simply, hired workers but must be a collaborative partnership to alleviate the lives of the poor farmers.

SECTION 8. Organic Agricultural Zones. – For the effective implementation of this Ordinance, there are hereby set aside agriculture zones that will be protected from encroachment and contamination of using chemical-based farm inputs, mining, including contamination of genetically-engineered crops and other similar activities. These zones shall be organized according to ecological districts based on existing categories of land tenure instruments and arrangements such as the ancestral domain, the protected area, the agrarian reform communities; the community-based forest management zones, and such similar instruments and arrangements.

These zones shall be set up according to the following minimum criteria:

- (a) Presence of actual organic agriculture practitioners;
- (b) Presence of natural or man-made water formations, including areas covered by irrigation and similar facilities;
- (c) Identified buffer zone to shield organic agriculture from other land uses that impact in the integrity of the practice of organic agriculture; and

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(d) Areas suited for agricultural production as defined in the municipal Land Use Plan.

SECTION 9. *Organic Centers.* – The municipality, through the Municipal Agriculturist Office, shall establish, recognize and/support Organic Centers including those initiated by the private sector that will promote, market, and develop organic agriculture. The Office may also recognize or support market centers which are established for the purpose of marketing organic products;

SECTION 10. *Organic Gene/Seed Bank.* – The municipal government in coordination with concerned offices and stakeholders shall establish an Organic Seed/Gene Bank which will produce and supply organic, endemic or indigenous seeds to farmers.

SECTION 11. *Support Service To Organic Farmers.* – The municipal government shall ensure support to organic farmers who wish to engage in organic agriculture, such as training, production, marketing and branding, including financial management and accounting, among other necessary skills to develop an organic agriculture product that will secure a market niche, including the practice of fair trade.

Support services shall also be primarily extended to small and marginalized farmers and women's groups including the promotion, enhancement and fulfillment of their rights as defined in national laws.

SECTION 12. The municipality shall support the irrigation system to fully implement this ordinance. The system must be fully equipped with facilities.

SECTION 13. *Agricultural Solid Waste Management Plan.* - In accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, there shall be established a solid waste management plan on the management of agriculture wastes in the municipality in order to generate compostable material for the organic agriculture practice that is established by this ordinance.

SECTION 14. *Watershed and Biodiversity Conservation and Rehabilitation.* - In accordance with existing laws, there shall be biodiversity and watershed conservation and rehabilitation to ensure the continuous provision of these ecological and biological services vital to organic agriculture.

SECTION 15. *Annual Celebration Of The Organic Farmer's Festival.* - In consonance with the National Organic Agriculture Program, an Organic Farmers' Festival shall be held annually to be determined by the Committee for the purpose of promoting organic agriculture in the municipality.

The Committee shall design programs and activities that will promote and encourage the practice of organic agriculture.

The festival shall also serve as the venue in the giving of recognitions and awards for the individuals or organizations engaged in organic agriculture as stipulated in this ordinance.

SECTION 16. *Allocation of Fund.* - In order to realize the purposes of this ordinance, the municipal government shall integrate the program in the Annual Development Plan and allocate fund from the Annual Budget of the municipality.

SECTION 17. *Incentives to Farmers, Schools And Barangays.* – The municipal government shall give incentives, awards and financial support to farmers, schools and barangays which pursue, promote, and practice organic farming. The Committee shall formulate guidelines for developing incentive programs, award systems and/or financial support.

SECTION 18. *Standard-Setting.* – The Committee shall formulate an organic agriculture standard appropriate for municipality's farmers.

The standard to be formulated by the Committee shall be anchored on the utilization of biodegradable waste as a resource for organic agriculture system;

SECTION 19. *Research and Development.* – A Master Plan for Research and Development on Organic Agriculture shall be formulated by the Committee in coordination and consultation with concerned government agencies and stakeholders. The Master Plan shall be regularly updated in

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consultation with different sectors. The participation of farmers and other stakeholders such as, but not limited to, private entities, NGOs and LGUs in the research, development and implementation of the master plan is preferred.

SECTION 20. *Promotion and Advocacy of Organic Agriculture Farming System.* – The municipality the Department of Agriculture and the NOAB in conducting a sustained and massive National and Community Based Quad Media Information, Education and Communication (IEC) to promote and advocate organic agriculture farming systems adoption and accreditation during the two-year transition period of the implementation of the Organic Act.

SECTION 21. *Establishment of Trading Posts for Organic Products and Inputs.* – The municipality shall establish dedicated stalls in the public markets and organize special market day for organic products.

The municipality shall establish, if feasible, a trading post for organic inputs, provided that the organic inputs for sale comply with the standard specification established by NOAB through BAFPS and as stated in the IRR of the Organic Act. The Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the municipality, make available funding for the establishment of such trading posts.

SECTION 22. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any section of this Ordinance is declared illegal or unconstitutional, other sections hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 23. *Repealing Clause.* - All previous issuances, ordinance, rules and regulations, provisions or parts thereof, which are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 24. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.”

Voting on the foregoing ordinance was as follows:

AYES : Members Santos, Butay, Badua, Caraang, Ilaga, Domingo, and Ruiz.
NAYS : None.
ABSTAINED : None.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

ATTESTED:


MARIA TERESA VALDEZ-BARRETT
Vice-Mayer/ Presiding Officer


ENRIQUE P. ULEP, JR.
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan I

APPROVED:


ALFREDO P. VALDEZ, JR., M.D.
Municipal Mayor

Approved on: April 29, 2013