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Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF LEYTE**

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR  
**CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA**

November 11, 2025

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
Province of Leyte  
**RECEIVED**  
Date: NOV 11 2025  
By: [Signature]

**HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER JR.**  
Vice-Governor and Presiding Officer  
and **THE HONORABLE MEMBERS**  
**SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
Province of Leyte

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Greetings!

Respectfully transmitted to the Honorable August Body, **AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING, PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

I am confident that this endorsement will merit your preferential consideration. Attached herein is the document for your guidance and perusal.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*[Signature]*  
**CARLOS JERICHO L. PETILLA**  
Governor



**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**  
Series of \_\_\_\_\_  
**PROVINCE OF LEYTE**

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING, PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF,  
AND FOR OTHER OTHER PURPOSES**

**CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

*Section 1. Short Title.* This ordinance shall be known as the “Province of Leyte Organic Agriculture (OA) Ordinance of 2025.”

*Section 2. Declaration of Policy and Principles.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines. It is also the duty of the local government to promote organic agriculture including the protection of organic areas and organic farming practices. Towards this end, the Provincial Government of Leyte shall mainstream organic agriculture as one of the main agriculture practices in the Province, that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity and farmers’ incomes, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, encourage the participation of indigenous organic farmers in promoting their sustainable practices, further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, save on imported farm inputs and promote food self-sufficiency. Likewise, the Province shall support the nationwide educational and awareness campaign among consumers on the benefits of consuming organic products to boost local production of organic food and non-food products.

*Section 3. Definition of Terms.* As defined in RA 10068, as amended by RA 11511, and used in this Ordinance, the terms below shall mean the following:

- a. *Organic* – refers to the particular farming and processing systems, 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 ecologically sound, socially acceptable, economically viable and technically feasible production of food and fibers. Organic agriculture 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 RA 10068, as amended by RA 11511, and enhance productivity without destroying the soil and harming farmers, consumers, and the environment as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM): Provided, that the biotechnology herein referred to shall not include genetically modified organisms or GMOs;
- c. *Organic Agriculture Areas* – refer to certified organic areas which practice a holistic production management system involving the promotion and enhancement of the agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity; these are areas that emphasizes the use of management practices over the use of off-farm inputs; and utilizes cultural, biological, and mechanical methods as opposed to synthetic materials;
- d. *OA* – shall refer to organic agriculture;

- e. *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;
- f. *Biodiversity* – means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;
- g. *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;
- h. *Indigenous organic farmers* - refers to practitioners of the indigenous organic farming practices regardless of ascription/affiliation/aggrupation to Indigenous Cultural Communities;
- i. *Indigenous organic farming practice* - refers to a system of traditional farming methods and techniques without intervention from entities outside their community that are being practices by the indigenous people;
- j. *Local Organic Seed Center* – refers to a repository facility or farm governed and managed by LGUs, wherein crops are grown for seed production and multiplication with a purpose of ensuring the accessibility and availability of the organic seeds and planting materials. The facility must follow practices and management in accordance with applicable Philippine National Standard on Organic Agriculture and be third-party certified;
- k. *Local Organic Seedbank* – refers to a repository facility or farm governed and managed by LGUs, whose function is to preserve seeds of the most adapted varieties in the community, including indigenous and crop varieties/cultivars and ensures its sustainability. All practices and management in this facility shall be in accordance with applicable Philippine National Standard relevant to organic agriculture;
- l. *Marketing Assistance* – support that covers various aspects of marketing and promotions including establishment of trading posts or selling area, market matching, participation in trade fairs, logistics support, enrollment in digital marketing platforms, consumer education, provision of trading capital, provision of post-harvest and processing equipment and supplies, certifications and other legal documentations, and support for professional enterprise management, among others;
- m. *Naturally grown produce and products* – These are agricultural produce and products that are chemical free and applies the principles in organic agriculture but have not been issued organic certification;
- n. *Organic produce and products*– These are agricultural produce and products that applies the organic principles in its production system and have been certified as organic by organic certifying bodies accredited by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fishery Standards (BAFS);
- o. *Organic Certifying Body (OCB)* - refers to a legal entity accredited by a government agency to perform inspection and certification activities. It is responsible for verifying that a product sold or labeled as “organic” is produced, processed, prepared, or handled according to relevant guidelines;
- p. *Organic Seeds* – shall mean plant materials used for the production of food, forage, fibers, industrial crops, oil, flowers, grasses, herbs, and aquatic plants, including but not limited to, meristem, and clonal propagules such as tubers, corms, cuttings, and micro-propagated plantlets produced from certified organic farms or seeds produced in accordance with applicable Philippine National Standard relevant to Organic Agriculture;
- q. *Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)* – refers to a locally-focused quality assurance system which is developed and practiced by people actually engaged in organic agriculture. It is built

on a foundation of trust, social network, and knowledge exchange, and used to certify producers and farmers as actual and active practitioners of organic agriculture;

- r. *PGS group* - refers to a legal association or cooperative of registered farmer members and other stakeholders in a participatory guarantee system;
- s. *Short, Medium, and Long-Term Plans* – For this particular case refers to plans of implementation that cover three (3), five (5) and (10) years, respectively;
- t. *Small Farmer/fisherfolk*- refers to those not utilizing more than five (5) hectares of land for the single purpose of, or a combination of the following purposes for, agricultural crop production, including rice and corn, aquaculture, and poultry/livestock raising. Provided, that poultry/livestock raising shall not have more than the following:
  - Poultry-1000 poultry layers or 5,000 broilers
  - Swine/native pigs-10 sow level or fatteners or 5 breeders
  - Dairy 10 milking cows
  - Goat, sheep and other ruminants-50 heads
  - Other animals permitted to be raised, the limits of which are to be determined by the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB);
- u. *Traditional/Indigenous Varieties and Cultivars* – refers to food or non-food crops that have been selected and cultivated by local farmers over generations, usually well adapted to local environmental conditions and connected with local cultures and traditional customs;
- v. *Third-party Certification* – or independent certification is defined as when a firm requires that its suppliers meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the business relationship to control the compliance of the suppliers;

*Section 4. Coverage.* This Ordinance covers the Province of Leyte.

## CHAPTER II PREPARATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROFILE AND SHORT-, MEDIUM-, AND LONG – TERM ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PLANS

The Province of Leyte shall formulate its Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Organic Agriculture Development Plans adopting the following principles: (a) consultative multi- sectoral planning; (b) recognition of rights of indigenous peoples; (c) primacy of small hold farms in local government assistance; (d) promotion of biodiversity; and (e) preservation of environment- friendly farming practices.

These Organic Agriculture plans and programs, shall include, but not limited to, the following: (a) priority organic agriculture commodities; (b) area per location; (c) shared facilities and capacities; (d) extension and capacity building; (e) organic agriculture certification; (f) marketing and promotion support; (g) research for development; (h) timelines; and (i) budgetary requirements.

*Section 5. Organic Agriculture Profile.* The Province shall prepare an organic agriculture profile utilizing the data from the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) in coordination with the DA-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) and other templates to be provided by the National Organic Agriculture Program – National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP-NPCO). The Provincial OA Profile shall then be submitted to the Provincial Government of Leyte for consolidation, together with OA profiles from other Provincialities within its jurisdiction, and submission to the concerned DA RFO and NOAP-NPCO for information and reference.

*Section 6. Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Organic Agriculture Plans.* The Province shall prepare its short-, medium-, and long-term organic agriculture plans based on its OA profiles and template to be provided by the NOAP-NPCO. It shall be reviewed by the Provincial Local Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (LTC-OA) and submitted to the Provincial Government of

Leyte for endorsement to concerned DA RFO and the NOAP-NPCO for information and reference.

**CHAPTER III**  
**CREATION OF THE PROVINCIAL LOCAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON**  
**ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (LTC-OA)**

Section 16 of RA 10068, as amended by RA 11511, provides that every Provincial Governor shall likewise, insofar as practicable, form a Provincial technical committee on organic agriculture for purposes of implementing activities in line with the National Organic Agriculture Program in the Province.

*Section 7. Provincial Local Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (MLTC-OA).* The Provincial LTC-OA shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Local Chief Executive;
- b. Committee Chairperson on Agriculture;
- c. Local Government Operations Officer;
- d. Committee Chairperson on Finance;
- e. Chairperson of a barangay actually engaged in organic agriculture;
- f. Three representatives from small farmer associations representing crops, livestock and fisheries, and preferably certified organic;
- g. One representative from the agribusiness sector or registered cooperative actually engaged in organic agriculture;
- h. One representative from civil society organizations actually engaged in organic agriculture;
- i. One representative from consumer groups, whenever applicable;
- j. One representative from the academe, whenever applicable; and
- k. One representative from indigenous people organizations, whenever applicable.

The representation of NGOs, academe, private business, and small farmers shall be drawn through their own processes of selection and in consultation with the concerned stakeholders to ensure participatory process and transparency.

The Provincial LTC-OA shall elect its chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary. The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist shall create a Provincial Technical Support Unit for organic agriculture which shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the Provincial LTC-OA.

*Section 8. Roles of the Provincial Local Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (MLTC-OA).* The Provincial LTC-OA shall:

1. Be responsible for the development, review, consolidation, and endorsement of the short-, medium-, and long-term organic agriculture plans of the Province, in line with the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP).
2. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the organic agriculture program in the Province.
4. Support the formation and operations of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups in the Province through the provision of technical and financial assistance.
5. Develop a local OA industry profile that shall form part of the provincial and national OA industry profile.
6. Assist in policy formulation, including the enactment of ordinances for the monitoring and regulation of organic produce and products sold within its respective jurisdiction.
7. Supervise/oversee the organic livestock, poultry and fisheries program in the Province.

**CHAPTER IV**  
**CREATION AND COMPOSITION OF PROVINCIAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**  
**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

*Section 9. Provincial Organic Agriculture Technical Working Group.* To assist the Provincial Government and the LTC-OA in the implementation of the programs and activities of the Province

on organic agriculture, a Technical Working Group shall be created for organic agriculture and shall be composed of representatives from the following offices:

Chairperson	:	Provincial Agriculture Office
Vice-Chairperson	:	Provincial Planning Office
Members	:	Provincial Budget Office Provincial Engineering Office Provincial Veterinary Office Provincial Fisheries Office Barangay agriculture committee chairpersons Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) representative, whenever applicable Representative from organic agriculture farmers' and fishers' cooperatives and associations in the Province Representative from agribusiness group operating within the Province, whenever applicable Representative from all agricultural colleges and universities operating within the Province, whenever applicable

*Section 10. Roles and Responsibilities of the Provincial Organic Agriculture TWG.* The Provincial Organic Agriculture TWG shall:

- a. Assist the Provincial LTC-OA in setting direction for the successful implementation of Provincial Organic Agriculture Program;
- b. Identify and recommend priority plans, programs and activities for the Province; and
- c. Regularly conduct review and assessment of the Program for improvement.

#### **CHAPTER V PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) FORMATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION**

The Provincial LGU, in coordination with the Provincial LTC-OA, shall encourage the formation and support the operations of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups within their locality through the provision of technical and financial assistance such as, but not limited to: (a) PGS Formation, Registration, Certification and Accreditation; (b) development of PGS Registry and Database; (c) promotion; (d) training; (e) inspection; and (f) incentives.

*Section 11. Formation and Registration.* The Provincial LGU shall help identify farmers engaged in organic agriculture and encourage them to form core PGS groups. The LGU can assist on the issuance of Governor's permit, which shall be limited only to PGS transactions. Possession of said permit shall suffice as proof of registration and the grant of legal personality to PGS groups.

*Section 12. Certification.* The Provincial LGU shall provide technical and financial assistance to farms/farm owners applying for certification as an organic agriculture practitioner. The LGU shall assist in terms of preparing the documents needed for the processing of application towards PGS certification.

*Section 13. Accreditation.* The Provincial LGU shall provide technical and financial assistance to core PSG groups applying for accreditation with the DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).

*Section 14. PGS Registry and Database.* The Provincial LGU shall develop a PGS registry and database within its jurisdiction and update it regularly. The registry shall serve as the basis in the provision of technical and financial support, and as monitoring tool on the existing and functional PGS groups in the Province.

*Section 15. Trainings.* The Provincial LGU shall initiate the conduct of training and other capacity building and values formation activities, among the PGS groups to enhance and update their knowledge and skills on organic agriculture practices. The LGU shall coordinate with the DA-BAFS

and DA – Agricultural Training Institute for the conduct of training program on organic agriculture standards and processes.

**CHAPTER VI  
PROMOTION OF ORGANIC AND NATURALLY-GROWN  
PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS**

RA 10068, as amended, stated the need to undertake a nationwide educational and awareness campaign among the general public on the benefits of consuming organic products to boost local production of organic food and non-food products, as well as the adoption of an organic agricultural system as a viable alternative. The Act recognizes the crucial roles of local government units (LGUs) in the promotion of organic agriculture including the protection of organic areas and organic farming practices. As such, the Provincial LGU shall provide support for the promotion of organic and naturally grown produce and products.

The support measures for the promotion of organic and naturally grown produce and products, shall include but not limited to, the following activities: (a) Establishment of trading post or allocation of selling area; (b) Assistance on Market Information System and Digital Marketing; (c) Conduct of and/or participation in trade fairs and market matching activities; (d) Support to Organic Agriculture Certification and other documentations; (e) Provision of trading capital, shared facilities and post-harvest and processing equipment and supplies; (f) Support for professional enterprise management services; and (g) Consumer education.

*Section 16. Establishment of Organic Trading Posts/Selling Areas.* The Provincial LGU shall establish organic trading posts and/or stalls/outlets. These areas shall be accessible to the general public and within areas with heavy foot traffic. The LGU shall also ensure that the trading posts and selling areas are strategically located in trading centers and local business activities for sustainability.

*Section 17. Consultation with OA stakeholders through the Provincial Local Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (MLTC-OA).* Organic farmers/fishers and other OA stakeholders shall be consulted on the proposed sites for organic trading posts or selling areas through the LTC-OA.

*Section 18. Organic Agriculture Livelihood Program.* The Provincial LGU shall support organic livelihood programs that serve as business integrators of organic farms producing and supplying organic inputs, providing farm services, as well as consolidating and marketing the produce of organic farms.

*Section 19. Market Information System.* The Provincial LGU shall assist their organic farmers and fishers in establishing a market information system, enlisting all organic and naturally grown produce and products available in the Province. It shall serve as inventory and production monitoring, and shall be updated regularly.

*Section 20. Enrollment in Digital Marketing Platforms.* The Provincial LGU shall assist their organic farmers and fishers in registering in digital marketing platforms. The LGU shall review and evaluate these platforms before the same can be endorsed to organic farmers and fishers.

*Section 21. Dedicated booths or selling areas for organic and naturally grown produce and products.* The Provincial LGU shall include organic and naturally grown produce and products in the trade fairs they organize or participate in. These shall be accorded prime locations and separate from conventional produce and products so as to maintain its organic integrity. The LGU is encouraged to provide support to the organic farmers and fishers through, but not limited to, provision of participation fees and travelling expenses, and logistics and manpower assistance.

*Section 22. Marketing Assistance.* The Provincial LGU shall facilitate market matching activities and link organic and naturally grown farmers and fishers to possible buyers and markets, in addition to the conduct of and participation in trade fairs.

*Section 23.* The Provincial LGU shall include in their marketing assistance to organic farmers and fishers the provision of trading capital, shared facilities and postharvest and processing equipment

and supplies through a grant or loan as well as support for professional enterprise management services.

*Section 24. Celebration of Organic Agriculture Month.* Pursuant to Proclamation No. 1030, series of 2015, declaring the month of November as Organic Agriculture Month, the Provincial LGU shall organize various activities to celebrate and intensively promote organic agriculture.

*Section 25. Conduct of Provincial Organic Agriculture Congress.* The Provincial LGU shall conduct an annual Provincial Organic Agriculture Congress to showcase its organic and naturally grown produce and products as well as the farmers and fishers engage in organic agriculture.

*Section 26. Participation in the Regional Organic Agriculture Congress.* The Provincial LGU shall participate in the annual Regional and Provincial Organic Agriculture Congresses, enjoining its farmers/fishers and other stakeholders to feature their organic and naturally grown produce and products, if applicable.

*Section 27. Other Promotional Activities.* The Provincial LGU shall likewise conduct weekly special market day for certified organic and naturally grown produce and products to further promote organic food, non-food and input products such.

*Section 28. Consumer Education.* The Provincial LGU shall conduct consumer education activities through exhibits, quad media and face-to-face campaigns, especially during Organic Agriculture Month celebration.

#### **CHAPTER VII AVAILMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL ORGANIC SEED CENTERS AND LOCAL ORGANIC SEEDBANKS**

Section 16 of RA 10068, as amended, provides that the local government units (LGUs) shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) for the establishment and/or strengthening of local organic seed centers/seedbanks, which shall include indigenous varieties, in order to increase farmers' adoption of organic agriculture and to protect and preserve indigenous and traditional crop varieties in their localities.

*Section 29. Identification of area/project site.* The Provincial LGU, through the LTC-OA, shall identify area/site and provide the farm layout and location map of area/site of the proposed local organic seed center and/or seedbank.

*Section 30. Technical Assistance from DA.* The Provincial LGU shall coordinate with the DA-BPI, through the DA RFOs, to avail of technical assistance for the establishment and/or strengthening of local organic seed center and/or seedbank in their locality.

*Section 31. Memorandum of Agreement.* The Provincial LGU must enter into a Tripartite Agreement with DA-BPI and concerned DA-RFO stipulating the duties and responsibilities of all parties.

The Provincial LGU must identify the priority commodities to be produced in the seed center/seedbank. It must also commit to undergo organic certification for their seed production in the Local Organic Seed Center. However, if it will establish a Local Organic Seedbank, the management practices in the facility should be in accordance with applicable Philippine National Standard relevant to Organic Agriculture.

*Section 32. Provision of Financial Support.* The Provincial LGU shall provide financial support for the maintenance and operation of the local seed center / seedbank. It shall designate overall coordinator who will be in-charge of the seed center/seedbank.

**CHAPTER VIII  
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE REGISTRY AND DATABASE**

*Section 33. Organic Agriculture Registry and Database.* The Province of Leyte shall adopt and populate the organic agriculture registry, in coordination with the DA-RFOs, and the database system to be provided by the NOAP-NPCO, and update these regularly every end of the month.

**CHAPTER IX  
MONITORING**

*Section 34. Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Plan Monitoring.* The Provincial Governor, thru the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist - Technical Support Unit, shall monitor the implementation of the Province's Organic Agriculture Program. Quarterly assessment shall be conducted in addition to the monthly reports. Annual report shall likewise be prepared and submitted to the concerned DA- RFOs and NOAP-NPCO.

*Section 35. Updating of Organic Agriculture Plans.* The short-, medium-, and long-term organic agriculture plans of the Province may be recalibrated or updated based on the realities of implementation. Nonetheless, these updated plans shall likewise be reviewed and endorsed by the LTC-OA.

*Section 36. Volume and Value of Trade.* The Provincial LGU shall also monitor the volume and value traded of organic produce and products using the template to be provided by the National Organic Agriculture Program – National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP-NPCO).

**CHAPTER X  
FUNDING AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

*Section 37. Submission of Organic Agriculture Plans.* The Provincial LGU shall submit its organic agriculture profile, short-, medium-, and long-term organic agriculture plans to the Provincial LGU within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Ordinance. The Provincial Organic Agriculture plan shall then be submitted to the NOAB thru the NOAP-NPCO and DA-RFOs within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Ordinance.

*Section 38. Funding Requirement.* Funding will be requested and decided on a case to case basis as may be deemed necessary.

*Section 39. Transitory Provisions.* The Provincial government shall be given six (6) months after publication of this Ordinance to comply with its the mandatory provisions.

*Section 40. Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or illegal by a court, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions.

*Section 41. Repealing Clause.* Any or all ordinances, resolutions and/or issuances of the Province, which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

*Section 42. Effectivity.* This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province.