



Republic of the Philippines  
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION  
CENTRAL OFFICE

# POLICY DIRECTION AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK ON ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING (AWD)-BASED CARBON CREDIT- RELATED INITIATIVES IN NIA- MANAGED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

*Proposed Memorandum Circular (Series of 2026)*

***Forum on Advancing Article 6 Implementation through  
Business Engagement and JCM Project***

20 January 2026  
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**#bayaNIAn**



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BAGONG PILIPINAS

# ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING (AWD)

**MC NO. 35, S. 2016 - POLICY TO ADOPT ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING (AWD) IN ALL NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (NIS)**

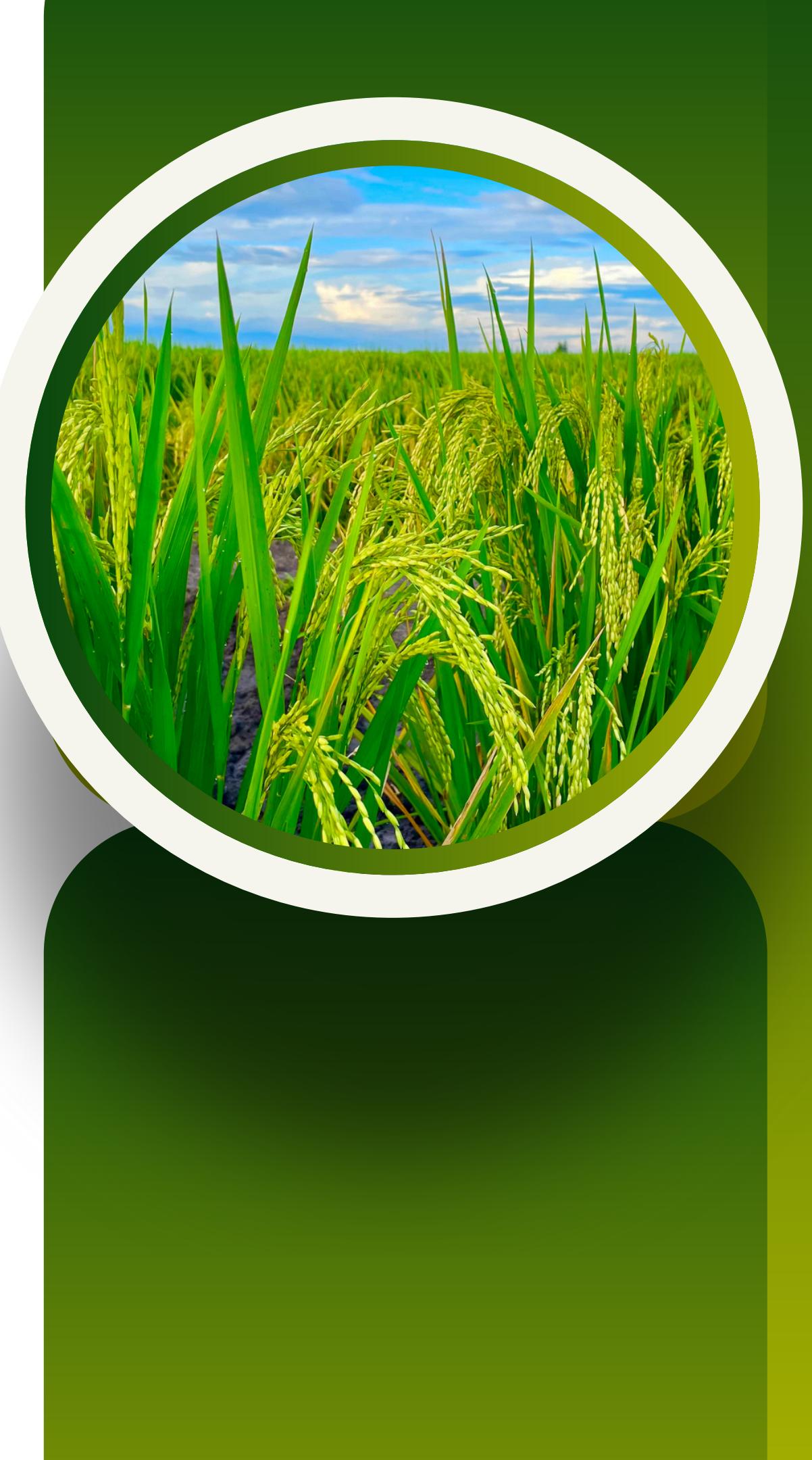
## Highlights:

Institutional adoption of Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) as an official irrigation water management policy of NIA

Mandatory application of AWD in all National Irrigation Systems (NIS)

Focus on improving irrigation water use efficiency in irrigated rice areas

Supports sustainable operation and management of irrigation systems





# NIA's RICE AREA FOR CY 2025

## NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS



**724,452.67 ha**

## COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

**461,453.16 ha**





# WHY GUIDELINES ARE NECESSARY?



**Increasing  
Proposals**



**Operational  
Risks**



**Overlap &  
Double  
Counting**



**Institutional  
Safeguards**



*"To establish a standardized framework governing carbon-credit related initiatives thru AWD within NIA-managed irrigation systems, while safeguarding irrigation operations, farmer livelihoods, and NIA's institutional authority."*



# NIA POLICY INTENT AND DIRECTION

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- **Pilot first, expansion later approach** will be implemented
- NIA maintains **full operational control** over irrigation systems
- **Coordination with NIA and irrigation Associations** remains essential



# SCOPE OF NIA'S GUIDELINES

## 1. Applies to all AWD carbon credit initiatives in NIA-managed systems.

- All new proposed carbon credit-related initiatives proposed for implementation within NIA-managed irrigation systems that utilize AWD as the underlying mitigation practice, for purposes of assessing feasibility for carbon credit projects, regardless of the applicable carbon market mechanism, or framework.
- Prior Carbon Credit-Related Activities thru AWD already conducted at the field level within NIA-managed irrigation systems without the formal execution of an MOU with NIA, or those undertaken prior to the issuance of the new NIA guidelines.

## 2. Covers all mechanisms.



## PILOT PHASE: WHAT IS ALLOWED (MOU)

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- For conduct of a carbon credit **feasibility, monitoring, and data generation purposes, at no cost to NIA.**
- The MOU shall have **a term of one (1) year from effectiveness**, unless earlier terminated or extended upon prior written approval of NIA.
  - One (1) pilot study per irrigation system shall be allowed per project proponent;
  - Multiple MOUs with different project proponents may be approved within the same irrigation system

Provided, that the **pilot area covered by each project proponent shall not exceed five hundred (500) hectares.**



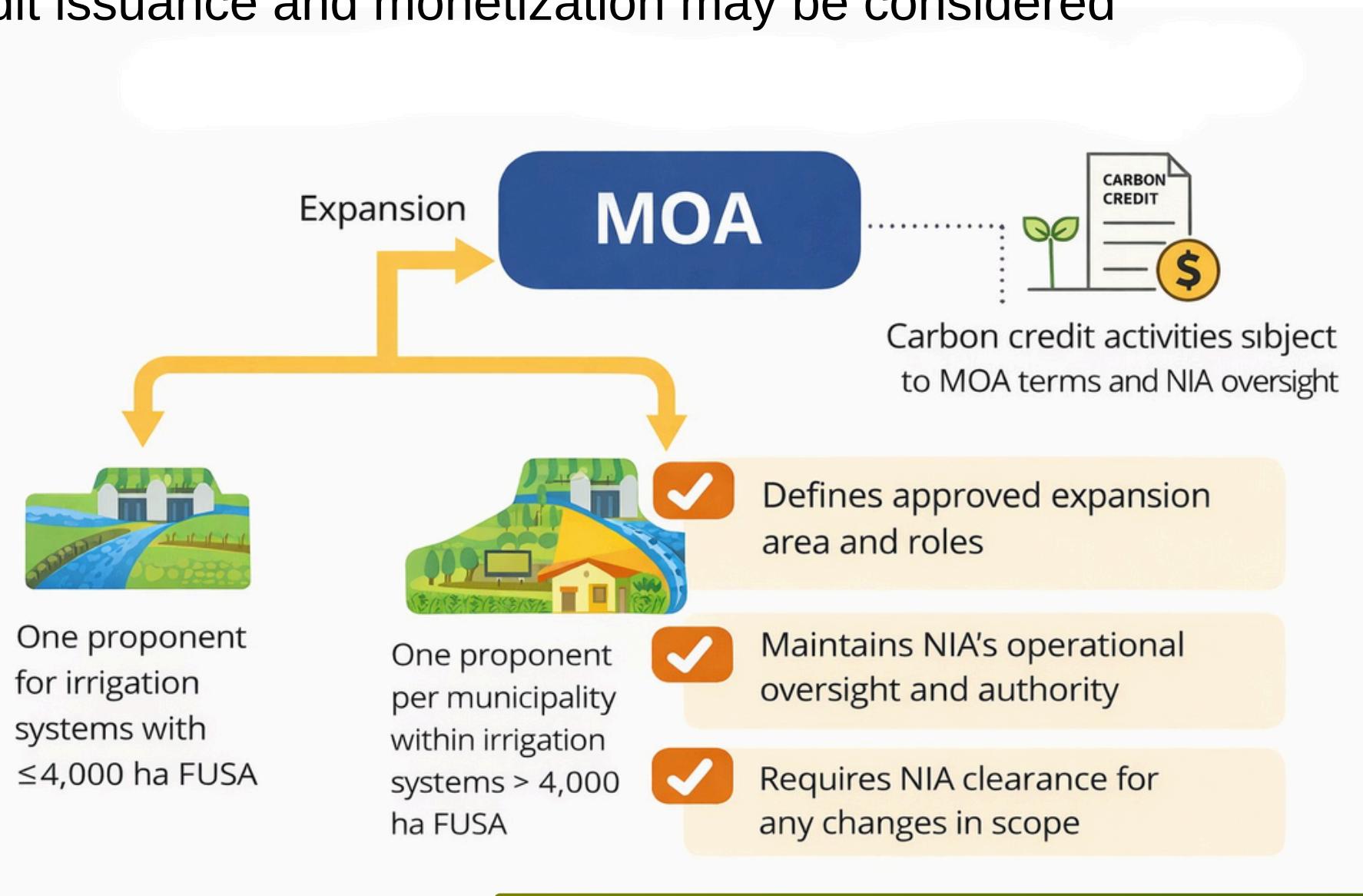
# TREATMENT OF PRIOR OR ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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- ✓ Submit to NIA all relevant documents, data, reports, monitoring outputs, maps, and all other related information
- ✓ Subject such submissions to NIA's evaluation

# MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA): EXPANSION STAGE

- Governs scaling-up and commercialization
- Requires post-pilot submissions
- Subject to NIA Board approval
- Carbon credit issuance and monetization may be considered



For Expansion, Scaling-Up or Commercialization of AWD-Based Carbon Credit Activities under Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

- Only one (1) project proponent shall be allowed per irrigation system where the Firmed-Up Service Area (FUSA) of the irrigation system is **4,000 hectares or below**.
- For irrigation systems with a FUSA **exceeding 4,000 hectares**, the system may be subdivided based on municipal boundaries, and one (1) project proponent may be allowed per municipality, subject to NIA's technical, operational, and policy evaluation and approval.

**Note:** Any proposed expansion area shall be subject to prior evaluation and written clearance by NIA.



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- MOU governs the pilot stage only--non-committal
- Pilot area: 1 pilot per proponent, max. 500 hectares; aligned with NIA operations
- Prior activities must be submitted for evaluation; no automatic recognition
- Full coordination with NIA and IAs is mandatory
- Post-pilot evaluation determines potential expansion under a MOA
- Compliance with NIA's operational, technical, and social safeguards is essential





## END OF PRESENTATION



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