

EXCERPTS from the minutes of the Regular Session of the Sangguniang Bayan held at the SB Session Hall on 26 March 2012.

PRESENT: Eduardo C. Loriaga - Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
Ma. Belen A. Paura - Municipal Councilor/Member
Shiela A. Morico - Municipal Councilor/Member
Marissa F. Trinidad - Municipal Councilor/Member
Alfredo A. Azutillo - Municipal Councilor/Member
Josefina N. Asor - Municipal Councilor/Member
Arturo P. Almendral - Municipal Councilor/Member
Jose O. Agomaa - Municipal Councilor/Member
Diano S.J. Ibardaloza, Jr. - Municipal Councilor/Member
Purificacion M. Caudilla - LNB President/Member
Jacquereen Q. Prado - SKF President

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 01
Series of 2012

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REPUBLIC ACT 10068, PROMOTING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAMALIGAN, CAMARINES SUR, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10068 otherwise known as the “Organic Agriculture Act of 2010” was passed purposely to encourage organic farming in the country;

WHEREAS, heeding the call to support environment protection initiatives of the State, the local government must adopt its own mechanisms towards this end;

WHEREAS, the practice of organic agriculture is one of the long-term strategies which will help our government attain its goals of eradicating chemicals and environmental toxins and obnoxious materials;

WHEREAS, the benefits of organic agriculture to health, environment and local economy of the farming sector should be a major advocacy not only of the national and local governments, but also of the community;

NOW, THEREFORE on motion by Councilor Arturo p. Almendral, duly seconded by all the members present,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Camaligan, Camarines Sur that:-

SECTION 1. TITLE. This ordinance shall be known and cited as the “Organic Agriculture Ordinance of Camaligan, Camarines Sur”.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is the duty of the local government to protect life and advance the rights of all citizens to food sufficiency, sovereignty and safety, sustainable livelihood and social equity in accord with the rhythm and harmony o nature. Towards this end, the local government will mainstream organic agriculture as a main agricultural practice in the municipality of Camaligan,

SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. The practice of organic agriculture shall adhere to the following principles, to guide the implementation of this ordinance:

- a. The promotion and enhancement of the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity shall prevail over any other activity in the agriculture sector,
- b. The empowerment of all small and marginalized farmers in the agriculture areas of the municipality is a priority which will include the value chain for organic agriculture products,
- c. The implementation of a strategy for mitigation and adaptation to climate change is an urgent policy matter that needs to be integrated in all policies in all sectors,

- d. While unifying the initiatives and efforts of all government agencies and instrumentalities in agriculture, the enhancement of the municipality's poverty reduction strategy should not be lost in sight;
- e. Organic agriculture is a contributor to the municipality's economy and the attainment of food security, ecological sustainability and well-being of the people of Camaligan;
- f. Organic agriculture cannot co-exist with genetically modified crops, chemically produced crops and related organisms both living and non-living;
- g. Organic agriculture is multi-functional and in this sense, all existing policies of the government on agriculture should take this into account, and;
- h. The integrity of the organic products through the approved organic certification process and organic production, handling and processing standards should be ensured.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Biopesticides – are naturally occurring substances and microorganisms that control pests
- b. Buffer Zones – are defined areas on the boundary of an organic farm that has land use controls and allow only activities compatible with the protection of the organic farm. It serves as a barrier that surrounds or separates an organic farm from other traditional or conventional farms where plants are not designated as organic. The area of the buffer zones shall be determined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations depending on the total situation on the ground;
- c. Consumer Groups – are organized consumer groups patronizing and advocating organic products;
- d. Conversion- is the process of transforming a traditional or conventional farm into an organic farm for a period of three (3) to five (5) years;
- e. Food Security – is the ability of the individual , household or community to produce and /or access/acquire appropriate, abundant, nutritious and safe food on a regular basis using socially acceptable means;
- f. Organic Agriculture – is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and good quality of life for all involved (IFOAM);
- g. Organic Center – is a center with the following goals:
 1. Establish a strategic venue for consumer education, information and communication for a sustainable healthy lifestyle;
 2. Design a showcase for organic products and farm technologies;
 3. Develop holistic and sustainable technology training programs;
 4. Formulate farm-based farmer-coordinated applied research program, and;
 5. Promote environmental economic values in enterprise development;
- h. Small Farmers- are marginal and sub-marginal farm households and/or cultivating not more than three (3) hectares.

CHAPTER 2- STRATEGIES

SECTION 5. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ZONES. For the effective implementation of this Code, 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 ancestral domain, the protected area, the agrarian reform communities; the community-based forest management zones, and such familiar instruments and arrangements, including the coastal and marine zones.

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 on the integrity of the practice of organic agriculture, and;
- d. Areas suited for agricultural production as defined in the Camaligan Comprehensive Land Use Plan,

To be submitted to the Sanggunian for approval in an Ordinance.

SECTION 6. ORGANIC CENTERS. The municipal government through the Municipal Agricultural Extension Services Office (MAESO), shall establish, recognize and/support Organic Centers including those initiated by the private sector that will promote, market, and develop organic agriculture;

The MAESO may also recognize or support market centers which are established for the purposes of marketing organic products;

SECTION 7. CONSERVATION OF INDIGENOUS FARM PRACTICES. Measures shall be established by the farming communities, to conserve and protect indigenous knowledge relating to organic agriculture, including those that relate to seed conservation and propagation and the various ways in which on-farm and ex-situ mechanisms are established and sustained.

SECTION 8. ORGANIC SEED BANK. The municipal government through the MAESO, in coordination with NGOs, international organizations and appropriate agencies shall establish an Organic Seed Bank which will produce and supply organic, endemic or indigenous seeds to farmers.

SECTION 9. SUPPORT SERVICES 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 10. ACCESS TO CREDIT FOR SMALL AND ORGANIC FARMERS. Small and organic farmers, through the MAESO shall have access to credit facility and financial services through organized groups of small farmers preferably those cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority.

SECTION 11. BIOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL CONTROL. Organic farmers shall practice and utilize biological and botanical methods which rely on predation, parasitism, herbivory or other natural mechanisms in the control of pests and diseases in their organic farm.

The municipal government shall provide support to the MAESO for their research and development functions particularly on biological and botanical control.

CHAPTER 3 – IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS. The municipal government, through the MAESIO, shall insure the implementation of this ordinance guided by the principles of organic value chain. It shall ensure the marketing of organic products by providing centers for selling, transport and other necessary services. It shall also ensure that organic products have certified organic branding in accordance with the Philippine National Standards.

SECTION 13. MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (MTCOA). The municipal government may institute the formation of an Organic Agriculture Management Council, headed by the MAESO that will assist in the implementation of the Ordinance and the formulation of an Organic Agriculture Plan for Camaligan. The Council to be composed of appropriate national government agencies, POs, NGOs, academe and such other

appropriate office engaged in or advocating organic agriculture, shall have the following functions:

1. Identify and recommend organic agriculture zones as established in section 5 of this Ordinance;
2. Adopt the existing national standards for the accreditation of organic agriculture practitioners which may take into account second party certification systems and farmers' guarantee systems;
3. Develop incentive mechanisms for the organic agriculture sector, in collaboration with local government agencies which may include, but not limited to, subsidies especially with farming areas that do not exceed the three(3) hectare limit, and the necessary crop insurance and other support systems of the agriculture sector;
4. Set criteria for organic farms, organic farmers, organic agriculture standards and practices, and;
5. Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the realization of the policies as well as the principles enunciated under this Ordinance.

In the absence of the establishment of the said Council, the MAESO shall perform the abovementioned functions in collaboration with other government agencies, NGOs, Pos, academe and appropriate offices.

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION, The municipal government shall appropriate substantial budget to ensure the implementation of this Ordinance and to support the organic agriculture activities of Camaligan.

SECTION 15. INCENTIVES TO FARMERS, SCHOOLS AND BARANGAYS. The municipality shall give incentives, awards and financial support to farmers, schools, and barangay government units which pursue, promote and practice organic farming. The MAESO shall formulate guidelines for developing incentive programs, awards system and financial support.

SECTION 16. STANDARDS SETTING. The municipal Mayor through the MAESO or the Council, in case it is established, shall formulate an organic agriculture standards appropriate for Camaligan small farmers.

The Standards to be formulated by the LGU shall be anchored on the utilization of biodegradable waste as a resource for organic agriculture system.

SECTION 17. CAPACITY-BUILDING. To sustain and broaden the base for the implementation of this Ordinance, there is hereby adapted a continuous effort, funded by at least ten percent (10%) from the budget set aside for organic agriculture as identified in Section 14 of this Ordinance, for capacity-building and training, including the accreditation of institutions for standard-testing and verification. Measures shall also be adopted to encourage integration of organic agriculture in the public primary and secondary schools curricula.

SECTION 18. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. A master plan for research and development on Organic Agriculture shall be created by the MAESO in coordination with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit 5 that will be funded by the municipal government by at least ten percent (10%) of the budget set aside for organic agriculture as identified in Section 14 of this Ordinance. The Master Plan shall be regularly updated in 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 19. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. The LCE is hereby authorized to create a joint executive-legislative committee to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Ordinance upon its effectivity.

SECTION 20. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall continue to be in force and in effect.

SECTION 21. REPEALING CLAUSE. Ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 22. EFFECTIVITY DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval.

ENACTED: 26 March 2012.

WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness and truthfulness of the foregoing.

JOY MARIE I. SAN BUENAVENTURA
Sangguniang Bayan Secretary

MA. BELEN A. PAURA
Municipal Councilor

SHIELA A. MORICO
Municipal Councilor

MARISSA F. TRINIDAD
Municipal Councilor

ALFREDO A. AZUTILLO, SR
Municipal Councilor

JOSEFINA N. ASOR
Municipal Councilor

ARTURO P. ALMENDRAL
Municipal Councilor

JOSE O. AGOMAA
Municipal Councilor

DIANO SJ. IBARDALOZA, JR.
Municipal Councilor

PURIFICACION M. CAUDILLA
Liga ng mga Barangay President

JACQUEREEN Q. PRADO
SK Federation President

Attested by:

EDUARDO C. LORIAGA
Municipal Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer

Approved:

EMMANUEL T. PRADO
Municipal Mayor