



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF SORSOGON  
MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT



## Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 37<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF GUBAT, SORSOGON HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL.

PRESENT:

HON. SIXTO F. ESTAREJA	- Municipal Vice Mayor/P.O.
HON. JOHN PAUL E. ERLANO	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. CESAR D. ESPERIDA, JR.	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. DANILO E. ENAJE	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. KENNETH D. ESCANDOR	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. ANTHONY C. CALLOS	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. VALENTIN A. PURA IV	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. AIZA E. ENCINARES	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan
HON. RAMON E. ENTICO	- Member, Sanggunian Bayan

ON LEAVE:

HON. NELSON E. QUINONES	- Liga ng mga Barangay President
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### MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2017 - 009

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING, PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THE "DON'T PANIC, GO ORGANIC GARDENING/FARMING PROGRAM" OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

*Author: Hon. Anthony C. Callos  
Co Authors: Hon. John Paul E. Erlano, Hon. Cesar D. Esperida, Jr.,  
Hon. Danilo E. Enaje, Hon. Kenneth D. Escandor, Hon. Valentin A. Pura IV,  
Hon. Ramon E. Entico, and Hon. Aiza E. Encinares*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF GUBAT THAT:

#### CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT"

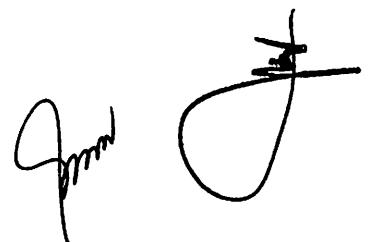
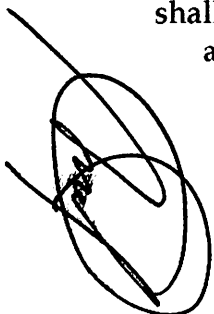
**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipality of Gubat to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the municipality that will cumulatively promote and enhance the fertility of soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution of and damage to environment, save our natural resources, protect health of farmers, consumers and the general public and promote community-based organic agriculture systems which include, among others, farm produce which in the long run will protect life and advance the rights of all citizens to sufficient nutritional and healthy food, safe and sustainable livelihood and social equity in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the local government shall promote organic agriculture as a main agricultural practice in Gubat Sorsogon..

**Section 3. Declaration of Principles.** - To guide the implementation of this Ordinance, the practice of organic agriculture shall adhere to the following principles:

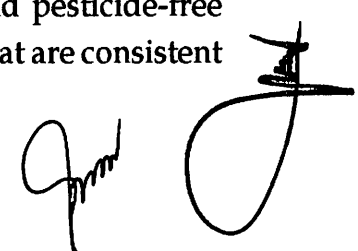
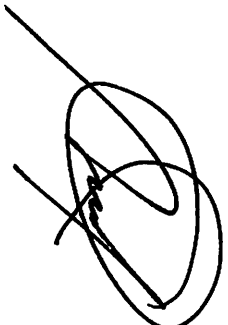
- a. The promotion, enhancement, conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity shall prevail over any other activity in the agriculture sector; in the case of monoculture (eg: sugarcane agriculture), agriculture biodiversity should be encouraged through intercropping, crop rotation or similar practices;
- b. The empowerment of small and marginalized farmers especially in terms of information on different alternative natural agricultural technologies, product value and fair market trade, and access/linkages in the countryside is a priority, including incentives as herein defined;
- c. Mitigating the effects of climate change is an essential component that should be integrated into all policies and programs in all sectors;
- d. While unifying the initiatives and efforts of all government agencies and instrumentalities in agriculture, efforts should be geared towards the upliftment of the economic conditions of all agricultural sectors;
- e. Organic agriculture is a contributor to the Municipality's economy and the attainment of food security, ecological sustainability and the well-being of her people.
- f. Organic agriculture does not co-exist with the genetically modified crops, chemically produced crops and related organisms, both living and non-living;
- g. All existing policies on agriculture of all Barangays should adopt and integrate all aspects of Organic Agriculture;
- h. The integrity of organic products through the approved organic certification process and organic production, handling and processing standards should be ensured; and
- i. Integration of organic agriculture in the basic education agriculture subjects and tertiary agriculture courses in public and private schools.

**Section 4. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. 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.



- b. Biodiversity – means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, among others, 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.
- c. Biopesticides – are naturally occurring substances and microorganism that controls pests.
- d. 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.
- e. Consumer groups – organized consumer groups patronizing and advocating organic products;
- f. Ex-situ - referring to the study, maintenance or conservation of an organism away from its natural surroundings.
- g. Food Security – ability of the individual, household and community to produce and/or access/acquire appropriate, abundant, nutritious and safe food on a regular basis using socially acceptable means;
- h. Gene Seed Bank - a collection of seeds from potentially useful wild plants, which may be used in the future for breeding new varieties;
- i. Small and Marginalized Farmer - refers to natural persons dependent on small-scale subsistence farming as their primary source of income and whose sale, barter or exchange of agricultural products do not exceed a gross value of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (PHP 180,000.00) per annum based on 1992 constant prizes. An inter-agency committee composed of the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority and headed by the Department of Agriculture may conduct periodic review and adjustments of the income level to take into account the effects of changes in inflation, devaluation and consumer price index (Republic Act no. 7607 or An Act Providing a Magna Carta of Small Farmers);
- j. 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 language to ‘biological’ or ‘ecological’. It is also a labelling term that denotes products considered based on the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010);
- k. Organic Farm Villages- villages composed of smallholder farmers in a community organized into a smallholder group and certified or in process for certification by a third party organic certification body.
- l. Organic Agriculture – includes all agricultural system that promotes the 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 this Act, and enhance productivity without compromising the soil and water, and harming farmers, consumers and the environment as defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM): Provided, That the biotechnology herein referred to shall not include genetically modified organisms or GMOs (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010);

- n. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) - refers to organisms that possess a novel combination of genetic materials obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

## CHAPTER 2. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

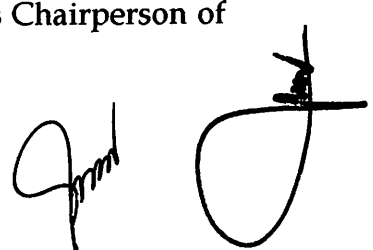
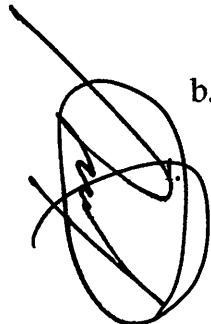
Section 5. Gubat Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (GTCOA). There shall be a Gubat Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture formed under this ordinance as required by RA 10068 for purposes of implementing activities in line with the National Organic Agricultural Program.

a. FUNCTIONS. The Committee shall have the following functions:

- i.) Formulate and develop a Municipal Organic Agriculture Plan, in consultation with stakeholders, and oversee its implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- ii. Supervise agricultural practices in the entire Municipality ;
- iii. Identify and recommend organic farm villages as established in Sec. 12 of this Ordinance;
- iv. Adopt the existing national standards for the accreditation of organic agriculture practitioners which may take into account second or third party certification systems and farmers' guarantee systems;
- v. Recommend criteria for organic farms, organic farmers, organic agriculture standards and practices;
- vi. Develop incentive mechanism for the organic agriculture sector, in collaboration with the Barangays which may include but not limited to subsidies especially with farming areas that do not exceed three hectare limit, and the necessary crop insurance and other support system of agriculture sector;
- vii. Coordinate with third party certifying bodies, different line agencies, NGO in terms of production, product development, skills enhancement and marketing aspect consistent with the provision to Organic Agriculture Act of 2010;
- viii. Design a comprehensive program for the success in the implementation of this ordinance through information, education, communication, and advocacy activities;
- ix. Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the realization of the policies as well as the principles enunciated under this Ordinance.

b. COMPOSITION: The Council shall be composed of the following:

The Mayor or his duly authorized representative who shall serve as Chairperson of the Council;



- ii. Municipal Agriculturist and/or his duly authorized representative;
- iii. Liga ng mga Barangay President or his representative;
- iv. SB Committee Chairman on Agriculture
- v. The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) or his representative;
- vi. Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council Chairman
- vii. Authorized representative from a farmer group engaged in organic agriculture
- viii. Authorized representative from a Non-Government Organization (NGO) group engaged in organic agriculture
- ix. Representative from Department of Education
- x. Representative from Department of Agrarian Reform
- xi. Representative from Department of the Interior and Local Government

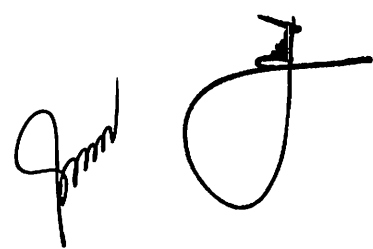
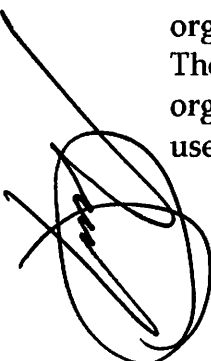
The Mayor may appoint additional members of the Technical Committee after due consultation with government, business, and civil society. All appointees are deemed to be knowledgeable and/or could have significant contributions to make in the area of organic agriculture. The Council hereby created may invite or tap representatives of concerned government agencies (DTI, DAR, DA, Municipal Health Office, DOST and others), organizations and enterprises for technical assistance or for coordination purposes from time to time, as may be appropriate or necessary.

c. SECRETARIAT. The Office of the Municipal Agriculturist shall serve as the Secretariat of the Council and as such shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Ensure that the policies, programs and strategies provided for in this ordinance are properly implemented.
- b. Coordinate with the various agencies composing the Council and other entities or associations engaged in activities covered in this ordinance.
- c. Conduct necessary ocular inspections and evaluation of various sites and activities which have organic agricultural potential and recommend the same for development.
- d. Monitor the implementation of the programs approved and adopted by the Council and render a quarterly report as required regularly
- e. Recommend organic agricultural development programs for adoption by the Council based on observations gathered from the evaluation of existing and probable organic agricultural sites and activities.
- f. Shall exercise such other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

### CHAPTER 3 - PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

Section 6. Registration. Every farmer/farmer organization implementing the organic farming method shall register with the Gubat Technical Committee Secretariat. The farmer shall indicate its farm produce and the date it started the conversion to organic farming method. The Secretariat shall make validation as to the farming methods uses.



**Section 7. Standards and Accreditation.** The Municipality shall promote the use of certified inputs and the certification of organic farms by certifying bodies.

**Process of Accreditation:**

- a. The farmer/farmer association will apply at the Local Government Unit.
- b. The Municipal Agriculture office shall inspect the farm unit and will assist in the processing of the Certified Organic Product (COP) certification if it passes the standard of organic farming.

**Section 8. 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) National Organic Agriculture Board through BAFPS and as stated in the IRR of the Organic Act.

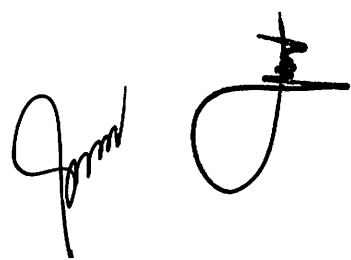
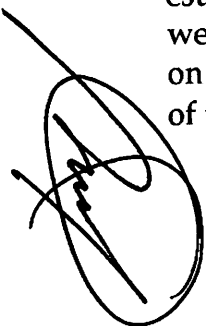
**Section 9. Incentives and Awards System.** – The Municipality, in collaboration with the private sector and other government agencies, shall establish and institutionalize incentives and awards system for individuals and organizations, engaged in organic agriculture, which may include the following components:

- a. Annual search and recognition and awards for model farmers and farmer organizations, best Gulayan sa Paaralan/Bakuran, best Barangay/School Nursery at the barangay, school and Municipal level;
- b. Access and/or provision of continuous update in organic farming including scholarship to children of organic farmers/model farmers who shall enroll in organic agriculture-related academic or technical programs;
- c. Support for access to organic inputs for big farms to encourage their entry/involvement in organic agriculture;
- d. and such other rewards and incentives that may hereinafter be developed.

**Section 10. Participation of All Barangays.** – The 42 Barangays shall be encouraged to initiate its own short, medium and long-term programs with specific budget allocation from its Internal Revenue Allotment on organic agriculture.

**Section 11. Collaboration with the Private Sector.** – The efforts of civil society organizations in promoting organic agriculture prior to the passage of this Ordinance are recognized. The Municipality shall continue to encourage and support the participation of the private sector in the promotion, propagation, development and implementation of organic agriculture, from farm production through marketing, trade and consumption.

**Section 12. Organic Farm Villages.** – For the effective implementation of this Ordinance, the Municipality, in coordination with all the 42 barangays, shall promote the establishment of organic farm villages which will serve as organic production centers, as well as demonstration farms and learning centers. These organic farm villages shall build on and strengthen existing pilot organic farm villages set up and managed by the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.



**Section 13. Conservation of Indigenous Farm Practices and Resources.** – Measures shall be established by the farming communities, including indigenous peoples' communities, to conserve and protect indigenous knowledge relating to organic agriculture, including those that relate aquaculture, animal husbandry, seed conservation and propagation and the various ways in which on-farm and ex-situ mechanisms are established and sustained.

**Section 14. Organic Gene Seed Bank.** -The Municipal Government of Gubat with the participation of NGOs, international organizations and other appropriate agencies shall establish an organic Seed/ Gene Bank which will produce and supply organic, endemic or indigenous seeds to farmers.

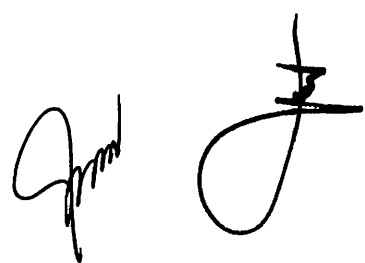
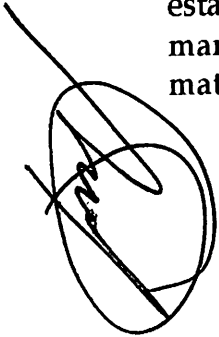
**Section 15. Promotion of Urban/Backyard Gardening/School Garden.** – The Municipality, through the Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO), shall encourage, promote and support urban, backyard and school gardening using organic agriculture practices all throughout the Municipality.

**Section 16. Support Services to Farmers.** – There shall be support services provided to farmers/farmer organization which includes agrarian reform beneficiaries, who wish to engage in organic agriculture, from 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 as well as ensure household level food security.

**Section 17. Biological and Botanical Control.** – Organic farmers shall practice and utilize biological and botanical methods, which relies on predation, parasitism, herbivory or other natural mechanisms in the control of pests in their organic farm. Maximum protection of beneficial insects and animals shall be practiced.

**Section 18. Research and Development.** – There shall also be formulated as a component of the part of the Municipal Organic Agricultural Plan, a Master Plan for Research and Development that will be funded and regularly updated in consultation with different sectors. Farmers, institutions and other stakeholders (such as but not limited to private entities, NGOs and Barangay LGUs) participation in all phases of the research and development of the master plan and its implementation should be ensured. The Municipal Organic Agricultural Plan for Research & Development will include the data bank of organic agriculture to monitor the progress of organic agriculture in the Municipality and to be used in the development of an Organic Agriculture Road Map for the Municipality. The data bank should include among others a list of existing organic or in-conversion farmers; their products, volume and hectarage; and list of certified organic inputs producers.

**Section 19. Solid Waste Management.** – In accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, there shall be established a 10 year solid waste management plan, with particular emphasis on the management of agricultural wastes in the Municipality, in order to generate compostable material for the organic agriculture practice that is established by this Ordinance.



Section 20. Watershed & 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 21. Recognition of Farmers' Rights. - Any farmer who may choose to practice organic agriculture in the barangay shall be given priority in providing for support. Any existing arrangement of the farmer with any contract grower or trader shall not prevent the farmer from practicing organic agriculture. Any attempt to coerce the farmer not to switch is a violation of the farmers' right to choose the method of farming suitable to his circumstance.

Section 22. Recognition of the Role of Women. - The role of women in the practice of organic agriculture is recognized. Towards this end, measures shall be taken by the Municipality to comply with its obligations to ensure a gender-fair and gender-balanced development along with support mechanisms to take into account the particular needs of women, from those who are child-bearing and girls of tender age, and the elderly women farm workers.

Section 23. Annual Celebration of the Organic Farmers Festival. - An Organic Farmers' Festival shall be conducted during the Nutrition Month celebration of the municipality each year for the purpose of promoting organic agriculture. The festival shall be the official venue in the giving of recognitions and awards for individuals or organizations engaged in organic agriculture as stipulated in Section 9 of this ordinance.

Section 24. Appropriation. Such amount necessary for the continuous operation and implementation of this ordinance shall be included in the Annual Budget.

Section 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Ordinance, the Committee shall, upon consultation with all Barangay Officials, government agencies, private sector, Farmer NGOs and POs, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Ordinance: Provided, That failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the executory nature of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 26. Repealing Clause. All municipal ordinances or parts of any municipal ordinance inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 27. Separability Clause. If any provisions of this ordinance are held invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation.

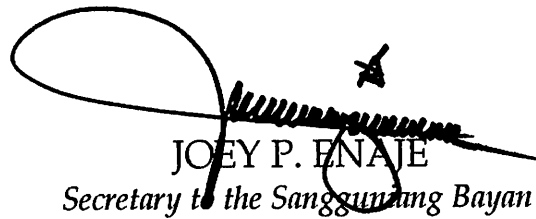
Section 28. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval.

APPROVED AND ENACTED.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE  
CORRECTNESS OF THE FOREGOING:





JOEY P. ENAJE  
*Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan*

*Attested by:*



HON. SIXTO E. ESTAREJA  
*Municipal Vice Mayor, Presiding Officer*

*Approved by:*



HON. SHARON ROSE G. ESCOTO  
*Municipal Mayor*