

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2935



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The diet of an average Filipino is based on rice. It gives half of our caloric requirements and one-third of our protein intake. Rice accounts for 20% of food expenditures for average households, which increases to 30% for households belonging to the bottom third of our society. As a durable crop that can be relied on to bring good harvest year in and year out, rice is grown in some 3.2 million hectares of land, providing livelihood to more than two million households engaged in rice-based farming, along with millions of farm laborers, and tens of thousands of merchants and traders.

The Agri-Pinoy Rice Program is at the centre of the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) of the Department of Agriculture, the focus of the country's food security policy from 2011 to 2016 and beyond. Its main objective of a food-secure society where farmers enjoy a decent and rising standards of living, the FSSP 2011-2016 hopes to achieve self-sufficiency in food staples. Self-sufficiency means satisfying domestic requirements for food, seeds, processing, and feeds through domestic production.

The primary goal is to produce the country's domestic requirements for rice in the soonest possible time. In the long term, the aim is to strengthen national resilience in staples production. This can be achieved through the following: (1) raising farmers' productivity and competitiveness, (2) enhancing economic incentives and enabling mechanisms, and (3) managing food staples consumption. This bill seeks to strengthen the Agri-Pinoy Rice Program of the Department of Agriculture to institutionalize it and make it more permanent. By providing better funding and a clearer mandate from the State, the Department of Agriculture can guarantee a stable supply of rice in the years to come.


HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

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AN ACT
CREATING A NATIONAL RICE PROGRAM BY INTEGRATING GOVERNMENT
INITIATIVES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR THE RICE FARMING SECTOR
THROUGH FOOD SECURITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, SUPPORT SERVICES FROM FARM TO TABLE,
AND BROAD-BASED LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This shall be known as the “Agri-Pinoy Rice Program Act of 2013.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State recognizes that the agriculture sector provides food and vital raw materials for the rest of the economy;

The State also recognizes that rising productivity and efficiency in the sector are critical in maintaining the affordability of food and purchasing power, especially among the poor;

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate, develop further and implement a program for the rice sector. Towards this end, a comprehensive and national program for rice farming is hereby established.

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

SECTION 3. *Creation of a National Rice Program.* – The Department of Agriculture (hereinafter the “Department”) shall establish and manage a National Rice Program that shall

1 undertake various government interventions from the national to the local levels in the form
2 of support to rice production; irrigation; postharvest and other infrastructure facilities; market
3 development services; extension, education and training services; and research and
4 development.

5
6 **SECTION 4. *Irrigation Activities.*** – The Department shall:

- 7 (a) Provide support to the activities of the National Irrigation Administration, an
8 attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, in the restoration, rehabilitation,
9 and generation activities of irrigation systems and their service areas;
10 (b) Provide small scale irrigation projects in rice cluster areas to ensure that major
11 waterways are functional to achieve high irrigation efficiency, and
12 (c) Develop policies and activities for the operation, monitoring, and evaluation of
13 irrigable areas or service areas expanded through restoration, rehabilitation, and
14 construction of small water impounding projects, diversion dams, and small farm
15 reservoirs.

16 **SECTION 5. *Other Infrastructure and Postharvest Development Facilities.*** – The
17 Department shall:

- 18 (a) Distribute postharvest equipment and machinery, such as, but not limited to,
19 net/laminated sacks, construction and rehabilitation of flatbed dryers, mechanical
20 dryers, bag closers/baggers, threshers, combine harvesters, rice cutter/harvesters,
21 shredders, moisture meters;
22 (b) Construct and rehabilitate palay sheds and warehouses, and multi-purpose drying
23 pavements; and
24 (c) Construction and operationalization of rice processing complexes, and village-
25 type grain postharvest processing centres.

26 **SECTION 6. *Market Development Services.*** – The Department shall develop the
27 following:

- 28 (a) Market Promotion and Development, consisting of the establishment of Seed
29 Trading Centers and e-Trading centers, and holding of agri-business
30 investment clinics, market matching, and trade fairs;
31 (b) Generation, periodic updating and dissemination of regional rice statistics and
32 market information such as inflow and outflow, demand and supply, palay

- 1 and milled rice prices, basic rice statistics (effective rice area, area planted &
2 harvested, production, yield per hectare, sufficiency), input suppliers, millers,
3 etc., supply chain and cost structure analysis, price monitoring, and updating
4 of cost structure, stakeholders directory, market profiles, and rice value-added
5 products
6 (c) Establishing linkages with public and private financial institutions, NGOs,
7 and agri-business entities.

8 **SECTION 7. *Support, Education, and Training Services.*** – The Department shall
9 provide:

- 10 (a) Trainings and training-related events for farmers such as technology transfers,
11 schools-on-the air, sustainable agriculture practices, and other social mobilization
12 activities;
13 (b) Technology demonstrations (Techno-Demo) such as varietal TD, compact
14 hybrid/cluster;
15 (c) Promotion and showcase of environment-friendly technologies adaptable to
16 organic production;
17 (d) Technology updating and re-tooling of agricultural extension workers (AEWs)
18 and farmer technicians by conducting specialized trainings;
19 (e) Provision of logistical support to LGU Extension Workers and para-technicians;
20 (f) Organization and strengthening of Irrigators Associations (IAs) and farmers'
21 organizations by forming and mobilizing clusters and conducting technical
22 briefings;
23 (g) Engages in intensive information dissemination campaigns by distributing IEC
24 materials such as newsletters, posters, brochures, handouts, flipcharts, billboards
25 and streamers; print, radio and television campaigns; information caravans;
26 schools-on-the-air, and other related activities.

27 **SECTION 8. *Research and Development Services.*** – The Department shall engage in
28 the following:

- 29 (a) Adopt research and development activities on new rice technologies, such as
30 researcher and farmer-managed adaptability trials for new hybrids and inbred
31 certified seeds; screening, selection and commercialization of special rice varieties

- 1 like organic and biotic-stress resistant; assessment and validation of soil fertility
2 of rice clusters for organic rice production;
3 (b) Promotion and adoption of technology on controlled irrigation, irrigated and rain-
4 fed rice systems;
5 (c) Upgrading of research facilities;
6 (d) Support to the research and development programs of the Philippine Rice
7 Research Institute;
8 (e) The program develops, maintains, implements, monitors, and evaluates plans and
9 policies that affect over-all rice production, farmers' welfare, consumer interests,
10 and climate or environmental concerns.

11 SECTION 9. *Generation of Statistics.* – The Department shall generate nationwide
12 rice statistics from national surveys and other statistical activities including the planning and
13 monitoring of program activities and interventions.

14 SECTION 10. *Program Reviews and Meetings.* – The Department shall hold
15 biannual program reviews and regular meetings with stakeholders in the rice industry. It shall
16 also conduct regular operational and program monitoring and evaluation activities to
17 determine program implementation and delivery of services.

18 SECTION 11. *Funding.* – The amount of ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS
19 (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial year of this Act. Every year
20 thereafter, the amount of FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P50,000,000.00) shall be included in the
21 budget of the Department for the implementation and continued expansion of this program.

22 SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall adopt
23 rules and regulation to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the
24 date of effectivity of this Act.

25 SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of
26 such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or
27 the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by
28 such declaration.

1 SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
3 inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 15. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
5 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,