

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6200



Introduced by **Representative Michaelina M. Antonio**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture plays a vital role in the Philippine economy. It is the primary source of livelihood especially in the countryside. Based on the 2016 Statistics on Agriculture undertaken by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the agriculture sector employed 11.29 million persons out of the country's labor force of 41.34 million persons in 2015. However, the growth performance of said sector is greatly affected by several factors like rampant conversion of agricultural land into residential subdivisions or industrial parks or resorts, environmental damage, and the occurrence of natural disasters thereby bringing substantial damage to farmers.

Due to economic and environmental factors that hinder the growth of the agricultural sector, local government units, with the assistance of pertinent government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, come up with projects and programs that seek to address these hindrances. One such case is the construction of village-based multiplier farms that has been known to boost production of stocks and has promoted a positive impact on income generation and skill development in the villages¹.

One primary example is that of Cordillera Region's multiplier farm concept which aims to bring animal reproduction to the communities where its beneficiary farmers are. Multiplier farms assure steady livestock and ensure quality and competitive produce, helping the farmers to be more self-sufficient.² Thus, should a multiplier farm be established in every agricultural community, it will surely help and extend assistance to rural workers as their other income-generating farm activity.

¹ <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/bacolod/business/2017/03/29/himamaylan-pushes-replication-multiplier-farm-villages-533830>

² <http://www.baguiomidlandcourier.com.ph/business.asp?mode=%20archives/2016/june/6-12-2016/bus3-Multiplier-farms-poised-to-make-CAR-livestock.txt>

Putting up a multiplier farm will contribute in addressing the issues on availability, affordability and quality of livestock. Indeed, its establishment will bring about:

- Animal reproduction and multiplication of stocks with genetically improved quality breeders to strategic areas where beneficiary-farmers abound;
- Elite breeder population of exotic and native breeds for use in the development of crosses;
- Identification of superior crosses for mass production;
- Upgrade of existing stocks using natural and artificial breeding technologies;
- Competitive livestock supplies

Multiplier farms will definitely boost economic development not only of the farmers but of the community as a whole. It also aims to devolve the functions of the Department of Agriculture in loaning out breeder animals to farmers. Farmers who rely on livestock as their source of livelihood can get stocks directly from their respective areas instead of procuring or loaning from the national or regional offices of the Department of Agriculture.

Another benefit of the existence of multiplier farm is it will not add up on the current environmental issues, in fact, it has solution on agricultural waste like rice hay and corn stover since it can be utilized into livestock feeds, while animal wastes may be transformed into organic fertilizer.

In closing, this proposed establishment of multiplier farm in every agricultural community will address the primary concern of the Department of Agriculture in improving farm income and generating work opportunities for farmers and other rural workers.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is sought.



MICHAELINA M. ANTONIO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTIPLIER FARMS
IN STRATEGIC AREAS OF THE COUNTRY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Multiplier Farms.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby directed, in partnership with qualified local government units, to establish multiplier farms in strategic areas of the country where livestock sourced from nucleus farms shall be bred and their offspring distributed to deserving farmers for the purpose of promoting reproduction and assuring a steady supply of livestock.

SECTION 2. *Objectives.* – The establishment of multiplier farms is intended to effect the procurement of quality stocks and promote access to the same by livestock farmers and farm entrepreneurs. The principal aim is to enable livestock farmers to readily get their supply of quality stock in their respective localities and empower the local government units to assume responsibility for the program on food security. It will also increase the income level of farmers.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Multiplier Farm.* – A multiplier farm refers to an area of land devoted to raising domestic animals like cattle, carabaos, goats, sheep, pigs, ducks, and chickens, intended for breeding purposes, with the principal goal of establishing a source of quality stock for breeders or for any other entities engaged

in raising livestock including but not limited to corporate-controlled farms, cooperative farms, and private individual farms.

SECTION 4. *Responsible Entities.* – The DA shall provide the breeder animals, forage planting materials, forage chopper, veterinary drugs and biologics, laboratory tests and technical support. The Local Government Unit (LGU) shall provide the housing, land, feeds and manpower for the operationalization of the farm. The DA shall implement a training for Local Government Unit personnel on farm management and operation to ensure sustainability. The DA and the LGU shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement these functions.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of multiplier farms in strategic areas, taking into consideration the capability of the area for agriculture, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the multiplier farm.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,