

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7835**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite the country having been blessed with fertile lands and a climate conducive for agriculture, the agriculture sector remains an underperformer in the national economy. In fact, even though it is one of the three main sectors of the Philippine economy, agriculture remains as the most neglected in investments and development. Its contribution to the national gross domestic product has declined to 11 percent from the previous 20 to 30 percent in 1969.

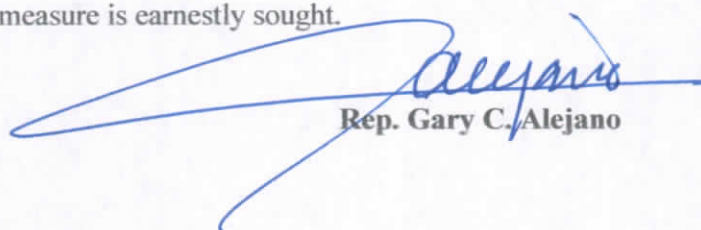
Aside from the lack of investments and development, Philippine agriculture has also suffered from outdated data gathering procedures in LGU information used in agricultural planning for production and marketing. The lack of complete, real-time data on agricultural products available in the barangay-level and inadequate support for marketing linkages to small farmers and farm cultivators has resulted to the fatal mismatching between production and demand, therefore resulting to minimal gains.

A little known fact, however is that in Mina, Iloilo, the local government unit and their Municipal Agriculture Office has initiated the necessary reforms to address such problems through MAIS or the Municipal Agriculture Information System. It serves as a database decision-making tool with an up-to-date inventory of all agricultural commodities in the LGU and provides for the easy access to a commodity's real-time supply and production situation at all times.

The system can generate monthly information both on real-time and projected information. In Mina, there are about 1,800 farmers that have been included and were able to access information available in the online system, which is managed by the Agriculture Office. Clients can either call via phone or visit the Municipal Agriculture Office to get real-time information about agricultural products available. There is also a summary of monthly information that can be viewed on the website of the Integrated Central Iloilo Alliance for Economic Development (ICIA-ED). All this information are data generated by the MAIS and are regularly posted on the website for reference of possible buyers and investors.

Therefore, under this proposed measure, this representation aims to realize the potential of MAIS in the national level through an enabling law establishing the Municipal Agriculture Information System in all cities and municipalities in the country, with the end goal of integrating and linking all such systems into one centralized database under the Department of Agriculture in order to rationalize the country's agricultural planning processes.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


Rep. Gary C. Alejano

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING THE MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM**
3

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
5 *assembled,*
6

7 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**—This Act shall be known as the “Municipal Agriculture
8 Information System Act (MAIS Act).”
9

10 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.**—It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uplift the
11 socio-economic conditions of farmers and farming communities nationwide in order to improve
12 their welfare and empower them as a vital sector in the overall development and progress of the
13 country. In pursuance of these objectives, there shall hereby be established, an integrated,
14 computerized, online Agricultural Commodity Supply Inventory/Registry System linking farmers
15 and organized communities all over the country with easy-to-access information on real-time
16 market demand, both local and global, for agricultural commodities with an end view of creating a
17 wider range of market linkages to both farmers and agricultural buyers.
18

19 Furthermore, through a synchronized agriculture information system, farmers, LGUs, and
20 ultimately, the national government shall have access to real-time agricultural information to
21 rationalize the objectives and policy directives of the country’s agricultural planning.
22

23 **SEC. 3. Objectives.**—This Act aims to provide for the integration into a unified Agricultural
24 Commodity Supply Inventory/Registry System of all information in the agricultural supply-demand
25 chain in order to allow our farmers in every city/municipality to perform with greater efficiency and
26 competitiveness. An information system shall operate to level the playing field among various
27 market players in the value chain and promote up-to-date information exchanges among such
28 players.
29

30 Specifically, this Act aims to attain the following objectives:

- 31
- 32 a. to provide an up-to-date database of agricultural products in all local government
33 units (LGUs) in the country;
34
- 35 b. to facilitate linkages from farms to markets among local government units;

c. to provide for stakeholders data on the specific commodities readily available in a particular locality;

d. to secure to our farmers additional sources of income;

e. to encourage farmers to engage in synchronized agricultural mass production to meet the voluminous demands of the market;

f. to provide for a modern web application that can be accessed through multi-platform support or cross-platform devices online;

g. to streamline training and seminars in the management of these operations; and

h. to facilitate the transfer of information and exchange commodity flows, specifically, supply and demand.

SEC. 4. *Municipal Agriculture Information System.*—All cities and municipalities are hereby directed to establish and implement a Municipal Agriculture Information System (MAIS). MAIS shall serve as a dynamic online computer database where information on the demand for specific agricultural commodities is gathered simultaneously with the production data from farmers in every barangay. It shall aim to merge and synchronize agricultural data from different sources into a cohesive database designed to facilitate linkages from place of origin (farm) to local and ultimately, global markets.

Specifically, the Municipal Agriculture Information System shall have the following features and contents:

a. Municipal/city-wide identification of farmers producing specific farm products either produced in small or large quantities;

b. Forecasting of crops harvest, volume, and type;

c. An inventory of specific classification of crop varieties planted and livestock raised in a particular local government unit;

d. Farmers' demographics, which shall include the age group, gender, and seminars and/or trainings attended;

e. Selected reports presented in both tabular and graphical form;

f. Facilitation of marketing linkages by providing for the farmer's contact number, address and farm location;

g. A search engine that shall allow—

1. for farmers to search for potential customers/buyers;
2. for customers/buyers to search for farms, farmers, and available agricultural products; and

h. A customizable dashboard, accessible only to registered farmer clients, that shall contain the farmer's profile, farm details, including but not limited to, the farm's land area, crops planted, and livestock raised.

SEC. 5. Registration.—All cities and municipalities shall encourage and facilitate the free registration in the Municipal Agriculture Information System of all local farmers, including customers/buyers transacting within their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 6. Encoding of Data.—All cities and municipalities shall observe the following procedure in the submission and confirmation of agricultural data submitted for inclusion in the MAIS:

a. The Barangay Agricultural Workers (BAW) shall be in charge of gathering the agricultural data submitted by the farmers within the barangay under their jurisdiction;

b. The BAW shall submit the data report to the supervising Agricultural Extension Worker (AEW) of the local government unit; finally

c. The AEWs shall validate the data duly submitted by the BAW and to make the necessary corrections and edits before finally encoding the data in the online database.

SEC. 7. Monitoring.—The Barangay Agricultural Workers and the Agricultural Extension Worker in the cities/municipalities concerned shall jointly, from the date of planting until harvesting, and as to whether the harvested crops have been used for private consumption or sold in the market, monitor and make the necessary updates in the MAIS database regularly.

For fisheries, poultry, and livestock, population and volume and information as to whether such fisheries, poultry, and livestock have been used for private consumption, sold in the market or have died shall be monitored and updated monthly.

SEC. 8. Duties of the Secretary.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall monitor and ensure the compliance of all cities/municipalities under the purposes of this Act and shall, as soon as practicable, establish a centralized agricultural information system that shall integrate and link all existing Municipal Agricultural Information Systems in the country.

SEC. 9. Reports.—

a. The reports that shall be included in the MAIS database shall include:

1. Agriculture Products Ledger;

2. Farmer's Master List;
3. Municipal/City Farm Resource Inventory;
4. Barangay Farm Resource Inventory;
5. Livestock Inventory;
6. Crops Planted/Expected Date of Harvest Inventory; and
7. Barangay Monthly Farm Production Report.

b. Reports by the Secretary.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall each year prepare and submit to the President and both houses of Congress a report on the program's performance. Each report shall—

1. review the success of achieving the program's goals within the year;
2. explain and describe, when a goal has not been met;
3. include the summary findings of the program's evaluation completed during the year covered by the report.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.—The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 11. Appropriations.—The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the annual appropriated funding of the Department of Agriculture in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause.—If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other provisions, sections, or parts thereof.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.—All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity.—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette and in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,