



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 1941

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The country is experiencing rice crisis right now. The prices of staple foods continue to rise. This problem is very ironic considering that Philippines has vast farmlands. One recommendation to solve the rice crisis is to launch another Green Revolution.

Government officials and business leaders who are seeking a long-term solution to the perennial problem of rice shortage in the country would do well to consider the recommendations made by experts at the recent Asian-European Editors Forum in Bangkok. The recommendations include the launching of another Green Revolution which, according to the New York Times, is generally believed to have saved one billion lives over six decades.

The Green Revolution raised rice yields in Asia from 1.5 tons per hectare in the 1960s to 4 tons per hectare today. Duncan Macintosh, development director of the International Rice Research Institute which played a key role in the project, said IR8 (semi-dwarf) launched the Green Revolution and saved tens of millions from starvation in Asia. The Green Revolution was also the foundation for startling economic growth in Southeast Asia.

The Green Revolution in the 1960s up to the early part of the 1980s was one of the major factors that enabled the Philippines not only to be self-sufficient in rice but also to export some of it to neighboring countries in 1977-78. There is no reason why the Philippines, with its natural resources, trained manpower and favorable climate, cannot replicate the Green Revolution and finally attain rice self-sufficiency.

The experts' recommendations at the Bangkok forum included:

1. Increasing productivity in rain-fed rice which could reduce poverty and increase global food supplies.
2. Providing adequate water control by setting up intensive, productive irrigated systems.
3. Developing the means for farmers to adopt and use existing technologies that are known to raise yields.
4. Developing rice varieties that can cope with climate change. Macintosh said that an increase in temperature of 1 degree Celsius causes a 10 percent drop in yield. He said problems that are bad now and will worsen with climate change are droughts, flooding and salinity.
5. Solving the problem of too much water including recurrent flooding, because rice grows in an excess of water.
6. Intensifying research for environmentally and socially adapted plants, including hybrid plant breeding and genetic engineering.
7. Making agriculture a political priority and increasing investments in rural infrastructure and market developments.
- 8.

This bill seeks to address the problem of rice crisis and to ensure rice production in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT
LAUNCHING ANOTHER GREEN REVOLUTION PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the state to sustain rice production in the country.

Section 2. Re-launching of Green Revolution. - To sustain rice production in the country, the Department of Agriculture shall re-launch a Green Revolution Program taking into consideration the following:

- a.) increasing productivity in rain-fed rice;
- b.) providing adequate water control by setting up intensive, productive irrigated systems;
- c.) developing the means for farmers to adopt and use existing technologies that are known to raise yields;
- d.) developing rice varieties that can cope with climate change;
- e.) solving the problem of too much water including recurrent flooding;
- f.) intensifying research for environmentally and socially adapted plants, including hybrid plant breeding and genetic engineering.

Section. 3. Appropriations. The necessary budget to implement this Program shall be included in the 2009 budget of the Department of Agriculture.

Section 4. Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Act

Section 5. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,