

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2576



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

AN ACT PROMOTING CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND THE PRODUCTION OF RICE ALTERNATIVES, ESTABLISHING THE CROP DIVERSIFICATION INCENTIVE PACKAGE (CDIP), CREATING PILOT IMPLEMENTATION MODELS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine economy continues to grapple with structural food security challenges, foremost of which is the nation's longstanding overdependence on rice. With over 80 percent of Filipinos' caloric intake derived from rice, any disruption in its supply—whether due to climate change, pest outbreaks, or price manipulation—poses significant risks to national stability. In both 2023 and 2024, rice alone contributed nearly 50 percent of headline inflation, underscoring the urgent need to diversify the country's staple food sources.

In his 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reaffirmed this priority, stating that the government had already proven that rice could be sold at ₱20 per kilo without losses to farmers and had launched the program in various provinces through the Kadiwa network.¹ However, achieving this target sustainably and without distortions

¹ <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/amp/story/manila/summary-ferdinand-marcos-jrs-sona-2025>

to farmgate prices requires a structural shift—namely, reducing national overreliance on rice through the active promotion of rice alternatives and diversified cropping systems.

This proposed measure—the Crop Diversification and Rice Alternatives Act—supports this national goal by institutionalizing a strategic shift from single-crop, rice-centered agriculture toward regionally suited, resilient, and profitable crop diversification models. Inspired by the President’s call to “invest in the Filipino” and to support agriculture as a base for key industrial growth, the bill promotes staple substitutes such as corn, cassava, kamote, ube, adlai, legumes, and other climate-resilient crops². These crops not only reduce vulnerability to price shocks but also offer industrial and nutritional value, aligning with the government’s agenda to expand exports in food processing, halal products, and biotechnology.

Evidence from Vietnam and Thailand, two of Southeast Asia’s most successful agricultural economies, shows that crop diversification boosts food security, enhances farmer incomes, and strengthens ecological sustainability. In Vietnam, diversification led to reduced per capita rice consumption and increased intake of protein-rich and vitamin-dense foods such as vegetables, legumes, and fruits. This allowed Vietnam to increase its rice exports even as domestic rice dependency fell—improving both economic and nutritional outcomes.³ Similarly, Thailand’s diversification strategy, especially under the “New Theory” land use model championed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, enabled smallholder farmers to maintain a year-round source of food, water, and income by allocating land into structured portions for rice, alternative crops, aquaculture, and housing.⁴

This bill mirrors such models by mandating pilot implementation of diversified farming systems in selected Philippine provinces. It introduces a 30:30:30:10 land-use scheme—30 percent for rice, 30 percent for diversified crops, 30 percent for water or aquaculture, and 10 percent for livestock and housing—adjusted to local environmental conditions. These models will be supported by the proposed Crop Diversification Incentive Package (CDIP), which provides targeted subsidies, low-interest loans, crop insurance, technical training, and guaranteed minimum price support for rice alternatives. This support directly complements the President’s pledge to provide collateral-free loans and livelihood assistance to 2.5 million low-income families, including smallholder farmers (SunStar, 2025).

Moreover, the bill aligns with the government’s initiative to boost the production of key agricultural commodities beyond rice and pork, including corn, banana, mango, cacao, calamansi, and sugarcane (SunStar, 2025). Many of these are included in the DA’s priority crop list and are suitable as regional rice substitutes. The bill will also leverage existing infrastructure—such as the Kadiwa distribution system—for public procurement of rice

² <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/amp/story/manila/summary-ferdinand-marcos-jrs-sona-2025>

³ <https://www.fao.org/4/x6906e/x6906e0d.htm#TopOfPage>

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/4/x6906e/x6906e0c.htm>

alternatives, particularly in school feeding programs and LGU meal services, supporting both nutrition goals and local economies.

Importantly, this measure strengthens the Department of Agriculture's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mandate by requiring annual reporting to Congress on productivity, farmer income, climate resilience, and inflation impact. It also mandates close consultation with farmers' organizations, agricultural universities, indigenous communities, and local governments—ensuring that diversification strategies are informed by science, local knowledge, and regional suitability.

In summary, this bill supports the President's call to grow agriculture as the backbone of national development. It addresses the inflationary burden of rice, empowers rural microenterprises, diversifies farmer income sources, and strengthens food system resilience—all while enabling the Philippines to pursue both domestic food sovereignty and global trade competitiveness.

The urgent passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe", with a stylized, flowing script.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**Crop Diversification and Rice Alternatives Act of 2025.**”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to secure food self-sufficiency, stabilize staple food prices, increase rural incomes, and build agricultural resilience by promoting the production, consumption, and marketing of rice alternatives and diversified staple crops. The State shall invest in sustainable agricultural systems that reduce excessive dependence on rice, respond to regional suitability, and enhance both domestic food security and export opportunities.

SEC 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) **Rice Alternatives** – Refers to crops that may substitute rice as staple food, including but not limited to: corn, wheat, kamote (sweet potato), ube, cassava, plantains, legumes, and adlai.
- (b) **Crop Diversification** – The cultivation of multiple crop types within a farm or agricultural area to reduce risk, improve income, and promote agro-ecological sustainability.
- (c) **Crop Diversification Incentive Package (CDIP)** – A support mechanism for farmers producing rice alternative crops, including subsidies, credit, insurance, and market support.
- (d) **Pilot Diversified Farming Model** – A farming system model combining rice alternatives with livestock, aquaculture, and water-efficient practices in a defined land area.

SECTION 4. National Crop Diversification Program (NCDP). – The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall lead the implementation of a **National Crop Diversification Program** which shall:

- (a) Identify priority rice alternative crops suitable to each region, based on climate, soil, and market data;
- (b) Encourage rice-alternative farming systems that improve food system resilience, farmer income, and climate adaptation;
- (c) Promote staple crop export opportunities for viable commodities such as adlai, cassava, peanut, and legumes.

SEC 5. Crop Diversification Incentive Package (CDIP). – The CDIP shall be extended to all registered farmers cultivating rice alternatives and shall include the following forms of assistance:

- (a) Input subsidies (e.g., seeds, organic inputs, basic equipment);
- (b) Access to credit from LandBank and other accredited financing institutions with preferential terms;
- (c) Crop insurance designed for rice alternative crops;
- (d) Guaranteed minimum price support;
- (e) Access to post-harvest infrastructure and technical support;
- (f) Grant scaling based on land size, productivity, and adoption of climate-smart practices.

SEC 6. Pilot Agroecological Diversification Sites.

The DA shall establish at least ten (10) provincial pilot sites representing major agro-climatic zones of the country, prioritizing rice-vulnerable and climate-sensitive areas.

Each pilot shall adopt diversified farming layouts such as:

- (a) The “30:30:30:10” model (30% rice, 30% diversified crops, 30% water/aquaculture, 10% housing/livestock);
- (b) Rice-legume-cassava integration or other climate-adapted combinations;
- (c) Upland slope agroforestry and contour farming models.

Each pilot site must have a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework reporting annually to Congress on:

- (a) Food production levels;
- (b) Farmer incomes;
- (c) Price impact on rice and alternatives in local markets;
- (d) Climate resilience outcomes.

SEC. 7. Nutrition, Public Procurement, and Market Development. – The DA, in coordination with DTI, DepEd, and DSWD, shall:

- (a) Conduct national campaigns on the health and culinary benefits of rice alternatives;
- (b) Encourage public institutions to procure diversified staples for meal programs;
- (c) Support product development, packaging, and marketing of value-added goods
- (d) Assist cooperatives and MSMEs in building rice-alternative value chains for domestic and export markets.

SECTION 8. Stakeholder Consultation and Local Integration.

- I. The DA shall ensure that crop diversification plans are formulated with:
 - (a) Farmers’ groups, cooperatives, agribusinesses, LGUs, and agricultural universities;
 - (b) Experts in trade, nutrition, climate science, and inflation mitigation.
- II. The plans shall align with the Philippine Development Plan, the National Food Policy, the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and regional agro-industrial blueprints.

SEC 9. Funding and Appropriations. – An initial amount of 200 million Pesos (₱200,000,000.00) shall be appropriated from:

- (a) The General Appropriations Act (GAA);
- (b) The Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF);
- (c) Grants, Official Development Assistance (ODA), or other funding sources.

Annual budget allocations shall be determined based on program performance.

SECTION 10. Extension of the ACEF Implementation Period. – The utilization period of Republic Act No. 10848, “An Act Further Extending the Period of Implementation of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF),” is hereby extended until 2045, in support of this Act.

SEC 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, in consultation with stakeholders, issue the necessary IRR to implement this law.

SEC 12. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder shall not be affected thereby.

SEC 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,


HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List