

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3252



Introduced by Abang Lingkod Party-list Representative
Manuel "Manman" O. Ko

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine agriculture and food system faces persistent challenges—from low productivity and post-harvest losses to fragmented value chains and limited agro-industrial innovation. Despite being a country rich in biodiversity and farming traditions, many Filipino producers continue to struggle with inadequate infrastructure, insufficient cold storage and logistics networks, weak compliance with food safety standards, and limited access to value-adding facilities.

To address these systemic bottlenecks, there is an urgent need for a centralized, modern agro-food facility that will serve as a hub for post-harvest support, quality assurance, cold chain coordination, research and development, and market integration. This facility will serve as a backbone infrastructure to improve national food security, reduce waste, and enhance the competitiveness of Philippine agro-food products in both domestic and international markets.

The proposed National Agro-Food Facility (NAFF), to be established under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA), is envisioned as a multi-functional complex equipped with shared post-harvest processing equipment, food safety and grading laboratories, climate-resilient storage systems, and logistics nodes. It shall also promote innovation by hosting a dedicated space for research and development in sustainable processing technologies and climate-smart food systems.

Moreover, the NAFF will play a strategic role in supporting smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and micro, small, and medium agro-enterprises (MSMEs) by linking them to value chains, reducing spoilage and inefficiencies, and enabling them to meet increasingly stringent food quality and traceability standards—especially in export markets.

By establishing the NAFF, the State fulfills its constitutional mandate to promote rural industrialization, ensure food safety and security, and support agribusiness development. This facility will not only help secure

the national food supply but will also empower communities and boost economic activity across the agricultural sector.

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


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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL AGRO-FOOD FACILITY, DEFINING
ITS FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the **“National Agro-Food
Facility Act of 2025.”**

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure food security, promote inclusive rural development, and enhance the competitiveness of Philippine agricultural and fisheries products through sustainable and innovative food systems. The State recognizes the critical role of post-harvest infrastructure, quality assurance mechanisms, and value-adding processes in improving productivity, reducing food losses, strengthening market access, and generating livelihood opportunities for farmers, fisherfolk, and agri-based enterprises.

Toward this end, the State shall establish and institutionalize a centralized, state-of-the-art agro-food facility that will serve as the national hub for food value chain integration, post-harvest processing, cold chain coordination, food safety compliance, and research and innovation. The facility shall support smallholder producers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by improving their access to shared services, logistics systems, technical knowledge, and market linkages, in order to foster a resilient, equitable, and globally competitive agro-food sector.

SECTION 3. Creation of the National Agro-Food Facility (NAFF).- There is hereby created a National Agro-Food Facility (NAFF) under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA). The NAFF shall serve as the central hub for food value chain integration, agro-industrial innovation, and food security coordination.

SECTION 4. Functions of the National Agro-Food Facility.

The NAFF shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Post-Harvest and Processing Support – Provide shared facilities and technical services for the processing, packaging, labeling, and storage of agro-food products;
- b) Food Safety and Quality Assurance – Operate laboratories and inspection facilities for food quality testing, grading, certification, and compliance with national and international food safety standards;
- c) Research and Innovation – Conduct research and development in food technology, sustainable processing, preservation, and climate-smart food systems;
- d) Cold Chain and Logistics Coordination – Serve as a national node for cold storage and food transport systems, particularly for perishable and high-value crops, livestock, and fisheries;
- e) Capacity Building and Technology Transfer – Provide training, education, and technical assistance to farmers, cooperatives, MSMEs, and LGUs on food processing, marketing, and quality standards;
- f) Market Integration and Export Support – Support the entry of Philippine agro-food products into domestic and international markets by providing certifications, packaging innovations, and market linkages;
- g) Food Resilience and Emergency Buffering – Serve as a strategic buffer stock and distribution center during food supply disruptions or national emergencies.

SECTION 5. Facility Components.

The NAFF shall include, but not be limited to, the following core components:

1. Agro-industrial processing complex
2. National food safety and quality assurance laboratory
3. Cold chain and logistics center
4. Training and technology center
5. Innovation and R&D hub
6. National buffer and reserve warehouse

Regional satellite hubs may be established in major agricultural regions.

SECTION 6. Governance and Management.

- a) The Facility shall be headed by a **Director** appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

b) A **National Agro-Food Facility Governing Board** shall be created, composed of representatives from:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Food and Drug Administration
- DOST – Industrial Technology Development Institute
- Accredited farmers' cooperatives and agribusiness groups
- Academe and research institutions

The Board shall set strategic policies, approve budgets, and ensure coordination with national and regional agro-food development plans.

SECTION 7. Appropriation.- The initial funding for the establishment of the NAFF shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the NAFF shall have its budget incorporated in the Department of Agriculture's appropriations in the General Appropriation Act (GAA).

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,