

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3531

Introduced by Rep. FAUSTINO 'BOJIE' G. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State upholds a commitment to support Filipino farmers across all stages of agricultural production. Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution clearly provides that the State shall promote industrialization based on sound practices in agrarian reform and agricultural development.

To boost our agricultural sector towards self-sufficiency, the State must take a more active role in supporting Filipino farmers, in all regions, in all sectors of agriculture, and in all stages of production.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), two of the major crops in the Philippines, rice and corn, have been annually posing significant post-harvest losses averaging 342,000 metric tons or Php 7.89 billion, and 151,000 metric tons or Php 2.87 billion, respectively.¹ Such losses can be attributed to the inadequacy of modern agricultural technologies, handling processes, and the lack of post-harvest infrastructure and facilities. Hence, there is an evident need to increase the government's post-harvest support.

If passed, this Bill will further strengthen the country's post-harvest industry by providing for the construction of post-harvest facilities such as storage warehouses, rice mills, and transport facilities. Moreover, this measure will contribute in the reduction of food loss and waste, thereby improving agricultural sustainability and food security.

The implementation of this bill will be a combined effort of three national departments namely the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

¹<https://www.abs-cbn.com/business/2024/6/24/average-post-harvest-losses-in-rice-more-than-p7-billion-per-year-says-da-1450>

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


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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR POST-HARVEST FACILITIES TO FARMERS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be 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 "Post-Harvest Facilities Support Act of 2025".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural and, more broadly, rural development. Specifically, the State aims to raise farm incomes to a level high enough to allow the farmers to meet their material needs and to enhance their self-esteem. It is also the policy of the State to encourage and strengthen non-government organizations such as farmers' organizations and cooperatives.

SECTION 3. Construction of Warehouses and Rice Mills. - The Department of Public Works and Highways, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, and farmers cooperatives shall construct warehouses and rice mills in every rice-producing municipality and city in the Philippines: *Provided*, That in the initial phase of the program, every district with at least one rice-producing municipality shall be the beneficiary of at least one warehouse and rice mill.

SECTION 4. Grant of Necessary Equipment and Machinery. - The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agrarian Reform, and farmer cooperatives, shall provide the equipment and machinery necessary to operate these warehouses and rice mills as well as the

necessary transport facilities. These include, but are not limited to dryers, silos, and modern processing equipment.

SECTION 5. Role of Local Government. - The local government shall manage and operate the warehouses and rice mills constructed in their territorial jurisdiction for the benefit of local farmers and local farmer cooperatives.

SECTION 6. Appropriations - The amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is initially appropriated for the program. In subsequent years, the amount necessary to pursue the program shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Budget and Management, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause - If any provision in this Act or the application thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the validity of other provisions not affected thereby, shall be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,