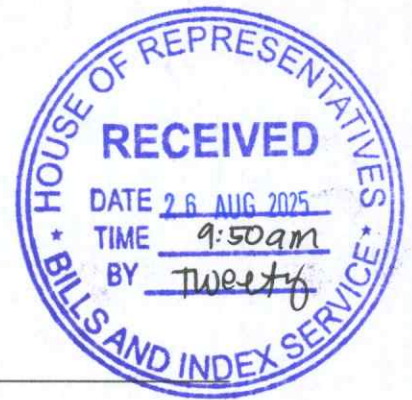


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3977



Introduced by Representative Wilton "Tonton" T. Kho

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a common knowledge that rural development is one of the most powerful strategies in reducing poverty and effecting inclusive growth.

The sad reality, however, is that rural development in the Philippines is lagging far behind. Per available data from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the portion of the poor in rural areas including farmers and fisherfolk has reached twenty-five-point seven percent (25.7%). In fact, according to PIDS, as of 2021, around two million seven hundred thousand (2,700,000) farmers and fisherfolk or thirty percent (30%) of their population live below the national poverty line.

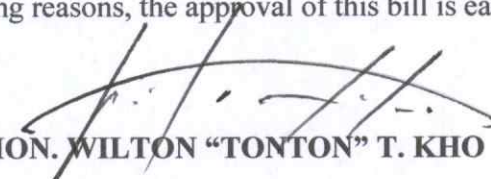
Notably, our government has exerted efforts in addressing the rural development problem in the country. However, the agencies concerned have been acting mostly within the confines of their offices and within the area of their expertise. According to a study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Philippine rural development sector is shaped by a functional and organizational fragmentation and overlap. There is little coordination among and between agencies, which results in bureaucratic chaos, limited progress and haphazard outcomes.

To address the lack of confluence among the concerned agencies, in 1999, the government launched the "National Convergence Initiative" as a mechanism to achieve institutional coordination in rural development. This effort was reaffirmed in the 2011-2016 PIDS Philippine Development Plan. However, this effort had limited success. Despite the initiative, structural, operational and political issues have remained, which naturally affected coordination and cohesion among and between the concerned agencies.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide a legislative mandate in developing and operationalizing a common framework for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development through the convergence of the resources of the principal departments of the National Government concerned with rural development.

Parenthetically, this initiative seeks to institutionalize the convergence strategy for sustainable rural development as well as provide the implementing mechanism necessary for its success.

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


HON. WILTON "TONTON" T. KHO

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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MECHANISMS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I

General Provisions and Policies

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "National Convergence
2 Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development Act."

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.*** - It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural
4 development as a means to ensure food security and alleviate poverty. To this end, the State
5 shall develop and operationalize a common framework for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable
6 rural development through the convergence of the resources of the principal departments of the
7 National Government concerned with rural development, namely, the Department of
8 Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and
9 Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).
10 This policy framework shall be implemented through a national convergence strategy.

1 **SEC. 3. Guiding Principles.** - The implementation of the National Convergence
2 Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD) is guided by the following principles:

- 3 a) The National Convergence Strategy is an institutionalized complementation strategy
4 among the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG. The four (4) rural development
5 departments shall work with other national line agencies and government-owned and
6 controlled corporations to promote a holistic strategy with a focus on the ridge-to-reef
7 approach, a holistic and integrated approach that considers all the environments from
8 the top of the mountain down to the shoreline and the corals reefs fronting it;
- 9 b) The complementation of resources and expertise of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG,
10 and local government units (LGUs) shall be the primordial consideration in the
11 implementation of the National Convergence Strategy;
- 12 c) The primacy of the LGUs as the integrating and converging force for sustainable rural
13 development at the local level shall be emphasized. The NCS-SRD shall aim to
14 strengthen the LGUs into becoming sustainable economies;
- 15 d) The National Convergence Strategy shall have a defined constituency. Intervention
16 following the ridge-to-reef strategy shall focus on smallholder farmers, both agrarian
17 reform beneficiaries (ARBs), and non-ARBs, fisherfolk, upland dwellers, and
18 Indigenous Peoples (IPs);
- 19 e) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development: planning and
20 budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and knowledge
21 sharing; and
- 22 f) The National Convergence Strategy shall include relevant measures for an enabling
23 environment to encourage investment by the private sector, cooperatives, and other
24 national government organizations (NGOs).

1 **SEC. 4. *Scope.*** - This Act shall apply to all rural development areas primarily inhabited
2 by targeted beneficiaries, namely, the smallholder farmers, both ARBs and non-ARBs,
3 fisherfolk, upland dwellers, and IPs.

4 **SEC. 5. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act:

5 a) *Agrarian reform beneficiaries* refer to farmers who were granted lands under
6 Presidential Decree No. 27, entitled “Decreeing The Emancipation of Tenants From
7 The Bondage Of The Soil, Transferring To Them The Ownership Of The Land They
8 Till And Providing The Instruments And Mechanism Therefor” and Republic Act
9 (RA) No. 9700, entitled “An Act Strengthening The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform
10 Program (CARP), Extending The Acquisition And Distribution Of All Agricultural
11 Lands, Instituting Necessary Reforms, Amending For The Purpose Certain Provisions
12 Of Republic Act No. 6657, Otherwise Known As The Comprehensive Agrarian
13 Reform Law of 1988, As Amended, And Appropriating Funds Therefor,” regular
14 farm workers who are landless, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, who benefited
15 from the redistribution of lands, regardless of crops or fruits produced, to include the
16 totality of factors and support services designed to lift the economic status of the
17 beneficiaries and all other alternative arrangements to the physical distribution of
18 lands, such as production or profit-sharing, labor, administration, and the distribution
19 of shares of stock which will allow beneficiaries to receive a just share of the fruits
20 of the lands they work.

21 b) *Agribusiness* refers to agriculture and fishery-based activities that put farmers,
22 processors, distributors, consumers, and other players within a system that produces,
23 processes, transports, markets, and distributes agricultural and fishery products using
24 appropriate technologies and applications.

- 1 c) *Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (AFF)-enterprise* refers to a business venture,
2 typically micro-, small-, and medium-scale, that can be undertaken either on- or off-
3 farm or a service that can be used to support other businesses. It operates in a defined
4 territory, which may be a barangay (village), municipality or group of municipalities.
- 5 d) *Capacity development (CD)* refers to the process through which individuals,
6 organization, and societies obtain, strengthen, and enhance competencies to set and
7 achieve their own development objectives over time.
- 8 e) *Civil society organization (CSO)* refers to a non-state and non-profit association that
9 works to improve society and human conditions. Basic types of CSOs include NGOs,
10 private organizations (POs), cooperatives, social movements, professional and business
11 groups.
- 12 f) *Convergence area* refers to a physical area where the NCS-SRD is implemented, which
13 is identified based on a selection criterion, supported by a Convergence Area
14 Development Plan (CADP), proposed by the LGU, and approved by the NCS-SRD
15 Executive Board (NEB).
- 16 g) *Convergence area development plan* refers to a comprehensive plan that contains the
17 strategies, programs, activities, and projects that shall promote holistic and sustainable
18 management of all resources within the convergence area.
- 19 h) *Convergence initiative* refers to complementation of efforts and resources between and
20 among the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, LGUs and relevant stakeholders to promote and
21 harmonize the delivery of AFF and rural development services towards sustainable
22 rural development.
- 23 i) *Ecosystem* refers to the community of living organisms interacting with each other and
24 with their physical environment.

- 1 j) *Fisherfolk* refer to people directly or personally and physically engaged in taking and/
2 or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources.
- 3 k) *Indigenous people (IP)* refers to the group of people or homogenous societies identified
4 by self-ascription and ascription by other, who have continuously lived as organized
5 community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims
6 of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed customs, tradition and other
7 distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and
8 cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture, became
9 historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos.
- 10 l) *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* refers to the totality of electronic
11 means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit, present, and
12 disseminate information.
- 13 m) *Information, Education, Communication and Motivational (IECM)* refers to
14 approaches to combine information, education, communication, and motivation into
15 products that could be transmitted over communication channels or multi- media in
16 order to interest or capture targeted clients.
- 17 n) *Key production area* refers to the priority area, which include among others Agrarian
18 Reform Areas, whose agro-climatic and market conditions favor the production,
19 processing, and marketing of specific AFF products.
- 20 o) *Knowledge management (KM)* refers to a range of strategies and practices used so that
21 pertinent data and information is gathered, processed, disseminated, shared, and
22 utilized to enable adoption of insights and experiences and to ensure that NCS-SRD
23 programs, activities, and projects are designed, implemented, and monitored in an
24 efficient and effective manner.

- 1 p) *Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) system* refers to the management
2 tool that aims to keep track of the progress and end result of the project implementation
3 within the convergence areas.
- 4 q) *Ridge-to-Reef approach* refers to holistic, collaborative, and integrated approach that
5 considers all ecosystems from upland to marine/coastal areas and the sustainable
6 management of its resources within the watershed.
- 7 r) *Rural development* refers to a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural
8 women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and
9 need. It involves helping the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural
10 areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. The group
11 includes smallholder farmers, small fisherfolk, tenants, and the landless.
- 12 s) *Smallholder farmers* refer to marginal and sub-marginal farm households that own
13 and/or cultivate not more than 3.0 hectares of land.
- 14 t) *Sustainable rural development (SRD)* refers to improving the quality of life for the rural
15 poor by developing capacities that promote community participation, health and
16 education, food security, environmental protection, and sustainable economic growth,
17 thereby enabling community members to leave the cycle of poverty and achieve their
18 full potential for the present and future generations.
- 19 u) *Watershed* refers to the land area drained by a stream or fixed body of water and its
20 tributaries having a common outlet for surface run-off.

21 CHAPTER II

22 Physical Framework

23 **SEC. 6. Guiding Framework.** - The NCS-SRD is a government strategy to address
24 the fragmented delivery of rural development services. Adopting the ‘ridge-to-reef’ approach
25 as the intervention framework in the convergence areas, the NCS-SRD strategy shall be
26 operationalized in the identified convergence areas, where complementation of efforts and

1 concerted and coordinated interventions from NCS-SRD agencies and other relevant
2 stakeholders interplay to achieve optimum results.

3 **SEC. 7. *Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas.*** - There shall be an established
4 set of mandatory and prioritization criteria that shall guide the identification and selection of a
5 convergence area.

6 A. Must Criteria

7 1) Completeness of ecosystem zones. The convergence areas should cut across the
8 various ecosystems or shall be a combination of at least two (2) ecosystems.

9 2) Passer of Good Financial Housekeeping. This is a proof that the LGU has good
10 governance performance in internal housekeeping, particularly in sound fiscal
11 management.

12 B. Prioritization Criteria

13 1) Presence of key production areas for increased productivity and income. The
14 convergence areas should have tracts of land identified for agro-forestry and
15 fisheries development for major production or with potential for expansion/scaling
16 up and/or connection to allied industries/services for backward and forward
17 integration.

18 2) Combination of areas across major poverty groups. The convergence areas shall
19 cover a significant number of smallholder farmers/agricultural workers including
20 actual and potential ARBs, fisherfolk, IPs, upland dwellers, and rural women.

21 3) Involvement of local government leaders of LGUs/LGU alliances. The
22 convergence area should have LGUs/LGU alliances whose Local Chief Executives
23 and Sanggunian are willing to support the Convergence Initiative.

- 1 b) Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Enterprise Cluster and Business Development
2 (AFFECBD). This CWG shall be responsible for the development, implementation,
3 monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of AFF enterprise clusters and businesses within the
4 convergence areas, which shall cover all ecosystems.
- 5 c) Capacity Development. This CWG shall be responsible for the development,
6 implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the NCS-SRD national capacity
7 development plan. It shall organize and manage all NCS-SRD learning and
8 development activities, including regular orientation and assessment activities.
- 9 d) Knowledge Management. This CWG shall be responsible for the development and
10 management of an information system for the NCS-SRD. The three (3) areas of concern
11 are the ICT, RBME, and IECM materials.

12 CHAPTER IV

13 Implementing Structure and Mechanism

14 Article One

15 National Policy Administration

16 **SEC. 9. NCS-SRD Executive Board .** - The NEB, hereinafter referred to as the Board, shall
17 act as the policy-making body of the NCS-SRD. The Board shall be composed of the following
18 or their duly designated permanent alternates with a rank of an Undersecretary, whose acts
19 shall be considered as the acts of their principals.

20 a) Lead Convenor: DA Secretary

21 b) Co-Convenors : DAR Secretary

22 DENR Secretary

23 DILG Secretary

24 c) Advisory Body: National Focal Person (NFP) (Assistant Secretary)

25 Deputy National Focal Person (DNFP) (Director)

1 The Department Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent alternate
2 representatives whose rank shall not be lower than Undersecretary.

3 **SEC 10. Powers and Functions.** - The Board shall exercise the following powers and
4 functions:

- 5 a) Provide overall policy directions for the implementation of programs/activities/projects
6 (PAPs) under the NCS-SRD;
- 7 b) Review the fulfillment of commitments of the respective agencies relative to the
8 implementation of the NCS-SRD;
- 9 c) Appoint or designate the NFP with a rank of Assistant Secretary, a DNFP with a rank
10 of Director IV as the permanent alternate representative of the NFP, and a Head
11 National Secretariat with a rank of a Division Chief. The NFP, DNFP, and Head
12 National Secretariat shall come from the DA as the lead agency, for efficiency
13 purposes;
- 14 d) Approve the implementation and coordination structure of the NCS-SRD, including the
15 membership to the NCS-SRD Technical Working Group (NTWG) and the four (4)
16 CWGs through the issuance of a Special Order; and
- 17 e) Approve/ratify policy instruments and PAPs pertaining to the operation of the NCS-
18 SRD; and allocate and approve resources to carry out the PAPs of the NCS-SRD,
19 including third party impact assessment of the convergence areas.

20 **SEC. 11. Meetings of the Board.** - The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis and may
21 hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The meetings may be held in rotation amongst the
22 four (4) departments of the convenors. In the absence of the Lead Convenor or Co-Convenor
23 of the host department, the principal members present may decide or choose among themselves
24 who shall chair the meeting.

1 **SEC. 12. *National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person.*** - The NFP shall
2 have a rank of Assistant Secretary and the DNFP as the designated permanent alternate
3 representative of the NFP, shall have a rank of Director IV. The NFP shall directly supervise
4 the National Secretariat which shall have a Head and Deputy Head Secretariat. The NFP shall
5 convene the members of the NTWG to discuss the status of the NCS-SRD PAPs before the
6 conduct of Board meetings.

7 **SEC. 13. *NCS-SRD National Technical Working Group.*** - The NCS-SRD NTWG
8 shall serve as the advisory and recommendatory body to the Board on matters related to the
9 implementation of the NCS-SRD. It shall be composed of the following or their designated
10 permanent alternate representative/s:

11 Chairperson : NFP or DNFP

12 Core Members: Chairperson, PA CWG

13 Chairperson, AFFECBD CWG

14 Chairperson, CD CWG

15 Chairperson, KM CWG

16 Secretariat : National Secretariat

17 **SEC. 14. *Component Working Groups.*** - The planning, budgeting, implementation,
18 and monitoring and evaluation of the NCS-SRD shall be done through the CWGs. These four
19 (4) CWGs are: PA; AFFECBD, CD, and KM. They shall serve as the horizontal or cross-
20 cutting components on issues related to all ecosystems using the ridge-to-reef approach.

21 Each CWG shall have a Chairperson who shall serve on a rotation basis among the DA-
22 DAR-DENR-DILG for a term of three (3) years.

23 **SEC. 15. *NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office.*** - The NCS-SRD Secretariat shall be
24 created at the national level, which shall be composed of seven (7) plantilla positions for its
25 technical and administrative functions. It shall serve as the main coordinating body of the NCS-
26 SRD. It shall likewise provide technical and administrative support to the NEB and the NTWG.

1 It shall be lodged at the DA as the Lead Convenor of the NCS-SRD and shall be headed by a
2 Head Secretariat, followed by the Deputy Head Secretariat, Managers for each of the four (4)
3 CWGs and an administrative officer.

4 **SEC. 16. *Functions of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat.*** - The NCS-SRD National
5 Secretariat shall have the following functions:

- 6 a) Coordinate and facilitate the conduct of the NEB and NTWG meetings, workshops,
7 writeshops, seminars, fora, and consultations;
- 8 b) Document, prepare, and disseminate minutes/proceedings/reports of the NEB,
9 NTWG meetings and activities;
- 10 c) Coordinate and facilitate the appropriate actions taken on agreements reached
11 during the NEB and NTWG meetings and activities;
- 12 d) Submit monitoring/progress reports to the NEB, NTWG and other oversight bodies;
- 13 e) Provide administrative support to the NEB and NTWG;
- 14 f) Coordinate and facilitate activities conducted by the four (4) CWGs to ensure the
15 timeliness of the activities;
- 16 g) Coordinate with the Regional Convergence Strategy (RCS) TWG and its Secretariat
17 on the status of PAPs in relation to the NCS-SRD;
- 18 h) Prepare and consolidate operational budget of the NEB, NTWG, CWGs, and the
19 NCS-SRD National Secretariat; and
- 20 i) Perform other functions as the NEB and NTWG may direct.

21 **Article Two**

22 **Sub-National Level Administration**

23 **SEC. 17. *Regional Convergence Strategy -Technical Working Group.*** - Parallel to
24 the NCS-SRD TWG, the RCS-TWG shall manage and supervise the programs, projects, and
25 other related activities at the regional level. It shall act as the regional, provincial, and
26 municipal/city arm of the NTWG and shall mirror the aims of NCS-SRD in the grassroots.

1 **SEC. 18. *Duties and Responsibilities.*** - The duties and responsibilities of the RCS
2 TWG are as follows:

- 3 a) Provide technical assistance in the development of the CADPs proposed by the LGUs;
- 4 b) Conduct technical review and validation of the CADPs proposed by the LGUs and
5 endorse CADPs to the NTWG;
- 6 c) Supervise the implementation of the PAPs under the approved CADP and the NCS-
7 SRD, as may be applicable;
- 8 d) Monitor and evaluate the progress and result of implementation of the CADPs and other
9 PAPs of the NCS-SRD within the region;
- 10 e) Facilitate the resolution of issues and concerns relating to the NCS-SRD operations in
11 the region;
- 12 f) Elevate issues on conflicting and overlapping policies relating to the NCS-SRD to the
13 NTWG;
- 14 g) Prepare project proposals to support proposed funding of NCS-SRD-related PAPs; and
- 15 h) Allocate and approve resources to fund for the NCS-SRD PAPs.

16 **SEC. 19. *Composition of the RCS-TWG.***- The RCS-TWG shall be composed of the
17 following:

18 Chairperson : Regional Executive Director, DA Regional Field Office (RFO)

19 Core Members: Regional Director, DAR

20 Regional Executive Director, DENR

21 Regional Director, DILG Designated Regional Focal Person

22 The DA RFO Regional Executive Director shall designate the Regional Focal Person,
23 who shall also come from the DA RFO. The membership of the RCS TWG shall be expanded
24 to include graduates of the NCS-SRD Masters in Public Management Major in Rural

1 Development Scholarship Program and representatives from the provincial LGUs and other
2 relevant stakeholders, as deemed necessary.

3 **SEC. 20. RCS-TWG Secretariat.** - The RCS TWG Secretariat shall act as the regional
4 arm of the National Secretariat. It shall have the following functions:

- 5 a) Coordinate and facilitate the conduct of the RCS TWG meetings, workshops,
6 writeshops, seminars, fora and consultations;
- 7 b) Document, prepare, and disseminate the highlights of the minutes/proceedings/reports
8 of the RCS TWG meetings and activities;
- 9 c) Coordinate and facilitate the implementation of appropriate actions taken on
10 agreements reached during the RCS TWG meetings and activities;
- 11 d) Directly liaise with the National Secretariat on the status of PAPs in relation to the
12 NCS-SRD;
- 13 e) Submit and report accomplishment, monitoring/progress reports of the convergence
14 areas and NCS-SRD-related PAPs to the National Secretariat;
- 15 f) Prepare annual workplan and budget of the RCS TWG;
- 16 g) Provide administrative support to the RCS TWG;
- 17 h) Attend and participate in the NCS-SRD activities at the national, regional, and local
18 levels; and
- 19 i) Perform other functions as the RCS TWG may direct.

20 The RCS TWG Secretariat shall be composed of the following or their designated
21 permanent alternate representative/s:

22 Head Secretariat: Designated Regional Focal Person

23 Core Members :

24 DA, Field Operations Division (FOD)/

25 Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division/

1 Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section/
2 Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division
3 DAR, Regional Program Beneficiaries Development Division/
4 FOD/
5 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development Sustainability and Program
6 Division
7 DENR, Office of the Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services/
8 Planning and Management Division
9 DILG, Local Capacity Development Division/
10 Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division/
11 Municipal/City Local Government Operations Office (M/CLGOO)

12 **SEC. 21. *Provincial Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group (PCS- TWG).***

13 – The PCS TWG shall be created when a convergence area covering at least two (2)
14 municipalities within one (1) province is proposed by the provincial local government units. It
15 shall have the following functions:

- 16 a) Propose and/or endorse convergence area/s to the RCS TWG based on the selection
17 criteria stipulated in Section 7;
18 b) Develop, formulate, write, package, and finalize the CADP of the approved
19 convergence area/s, in collaboration with the Municipal Convergence Strategy/City
20 Convergence Strategy (MCS/CCS) TWG and RCS TWG;
21 c) Implement PAPs under the approved CADP and the NCS-SRD within the province, in
22 collaboration with the RCS TWG;
23 d) Monitor and evaluate the progress and result of implementation of the CADPs and
24 other PAPs of the NCS-SRD within the province; and
25 e) Update the CADP from time to time, as may be necessary.

The PCS TWG shall be composed of the following or their designated permanent alternate representative/s:

Chairperson : Provincial Governor

Core Members : DA, Agriculture Provincial Coordinating Officer (APCO)

DAR, Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO)

DENR, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer

DILG, Provincial Director

LGU, Provincial Agriculturist

LGU, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator

LGU, Provincial Environment Management Officer

LGU, Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO)

The Provincial Governor shall designate a Secretariat of the PCS TWG. In case there is an existing LGU alliance in the area, the head of the LGU alliance shall be a member of the PCS TWG. The Provincial Governor shall also designate other members of the PCS TWG from other relevant government agencies as well as NGOs, CSOs, and private sector, as may be necessary.

SEC. 22. *Municipal/City Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group.* – The MCS/CCS TWG shall be created when a convergence area within a municipality/city is proposed by the M/CLGU. It shall have the following functions:

a) Propose and/or endorse convergence area/s to the RCS TWG based on the selection criteria stipulated in Section 7;

b) Develop the CADP of the approved convergence area/s, in collaboration with the RCS TWG;

c) Implement PAPs under the approved CADP and the NCS-SRD within the municipality/city, in collaboration with the RCS TWG;

- 1 d) Monitor, evaluate the progress and result of implementation of the CADPs and other
2 PAPs of the NCS-SRD within the municipality/city; and
3 e) Update the CADP from time to time as may be necessary.

4 The MCS/CCS TWG shall be composed of the following or their designated permanent
5 alternate representative/s:

6 Chairperson : Municipal/City Mayor

7 Core Members : DA, Designated DA RFO representative/APCO

8 DAR, Designated PARPO/Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer
9 representative

10 DENR, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer

11 DILG, Municipal DILG Officer/M/CLGOO

12 LGU, Municipal Agriculturist/ MAO

13 LGU, Municipal/City Planning and Development Coordinator

14 LGU, Municipal/City Environment and Natural Resources Officer

15 , as may be applicable

16 LGU, Provincial Agriculturist

17 The Municipal/City Mayor shall designate a Secretariat of the MCS/CCS TWG. They
18 shall also designate other members of the MCS/CCS TWG from other relevant government
19 agencies as well as NGOs, CSOs, and private sector, as may be necessary.

20 **Article Three**

21 **Monitoring and Evaluation**

22 **SEC. 23. *Monitoring and Evaluation.*** – A RBME system, based on indicators of
23 performance aligned with the Philippine Development Plan Results Matrix shall be
24 implemented. The monitoring and evaluation report must identify and describe the gaps and
25 issues experienced during the implementation of the NCS, the learnings on convergence as an

1 approach to sustainable rural development, and the proposed policy recommendations. This
2 shall be reported to the DA as the lead department.

3 **CHAPTER V**

4 **Final Provisions**

5 **SEC. 24. *Convening of NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office.*** - Within sixty (60)
6 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the NCS-SRD
7 National Secretariat Office. The current head of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall sit
8 temporarily as Officer-in-Charge of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office until such time
9 that a Head Secretariat is appointed.

10 **SEC. 25. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity
11 of this Act, the NCS Executive Board shall formulate and submit the NCS-SRD National
12 Secretariat Office's proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern for final approval to
13 the Department of Budget and Management .

14 The DA shall assist in the preparation of the Organizational Structure and Staffing
15 Pattern to ensure that the NCS-SRD National Secretariat may effectively carry out its mandated
16 functions under this Act.

17 **SEC. 26. *Appropriations.*** - The funds necessary to carry out the implementation of the
18 NCS-SRD shall be taken from the available funds of the rural development departments under
19 the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full
20 operation of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office and the staggered implementation of
21 NCS plans and programs shall be included in the respective annual budget of the rural
22 development departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from
24 donor agencies and other public or private entities may be tapped and facilitated by the NCS-
25 SRD Executive Board to support the program, subject to the regular auditing guidelines and

1 procedures. Cost-sharing or counter parting schemes among national government and LGUs
2 are also encouraged to support the implementation of the NCS-SRD.

3 **SEC. 27. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
4 effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, in coordination with the DAR, DENR, and the DILG,
5 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

6 **SEC. 28. *Non-Impairment Clause.*** - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish,
7 impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or available to marginalized or basic sectors under
8 existing laws including RA 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the "*Comprehensive*
9 *Agrarian Reform Law of 1988*," RA 8371, otherwise known as "*The Indigenous Peoples Rights*
10 *Act of 1997*," and RA 8550, as amended, otherwise known as "*The Philippine Fisheries Code*
11 *of 1998*."

12 **SEC. 29. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act shall be declared
13 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
14 and effect.

15 **SEC. 30. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,
16 presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are
17 hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

18 **SEC. 31. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
19 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved,