



**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**



20th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5399**

Introduced by: REP. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Ayuda para sa Magsasaka or Farmers Subsidy Program seeks to institutionalize the provision of free fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, and seeds to smallholder farmers registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). This measure is a direct response to worsening plight of Filipino farmers, particularly rice growers, who face systematic challenges that threaten their livelihoods and food security.

There are urgent challenges faced by smallholder farmers, one of which is the unfair market prices. The buying price of palay remains critically low, often below the cost of production. farmers are forced to sell at a loss, leaving them unable to recover expenses or earn a living wage.

There is also the rising production costs. Inputs such as labor, fuel, irrigation and agrochemicals continue to rise, further squeezing farmers' margins. Many are unable to pay workers or invest in their next cropping cycle. Ironically, the very people who produce food cannot afford to feed their own families. This is a moral and economic crisis that demands immediate intervention. The farmers in my district informed me that the government provides only one sack of fertilizer per hectare per year despite the fact that

rice farmers typically plant three times annually. This gross mismatch undermines productivity and sustainability.

There are also reports of leakage and misallocation which indicate that free inputs are frequently distributed to non-farmers or politically favored individuals, bypassing legitimate RSBA-registered farmers who need them most.

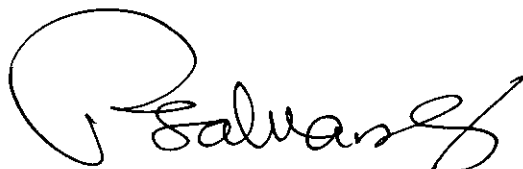
The objectives of this bill is to ensure equitable access and guarantee that only verified RSBSA-registered smallholder farmers receive the full package of agricultural inputs for each cropping season. It will also boost productivity as it provide timely and adequate support to enhance yields, reduce crop failure and improve food supply. It will reduce poverty and hunger as it empower farmers to earn a decent income and secure food for their families.

The proposed law promotes transparency and accountability since it would establish clear guidelines and monitoring systems to prevent misuse and ensure that subsidies reach their intended beneficiaries.

In the long term, it will strengthen national food security by supporting the backbone of agriculture, the country can reduce dependence on imports and stabilize rice supply. It will revitalize rural economies as an increased farm productivity will stimulate local markets, create jobs, and reduce rural poverty.

Recognizing and rewarding the labor of farmers is essential to preserving the agricultural heritage and future of the Philippines as it restores dignity to farming.

Given the importance of this measure, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalie', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

HON. ROSALIE "MOMMY ROSE" ANG SALVAME

1st District, Palawan



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

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE FARMERS SUBSIDY PROGRAM UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

SECTION 1. Short Title.

This Act shall be known as the " Ayuda Para sa Magsasaka Act of 2025."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote agricultural productivity and food security by ensuring that Filipino farmers have access to affordable and quality fertilizers, pesticides and other farm inputs.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the Subsidy Program.

There is hereby established a Farmer's Subsidy Program under the Department of Agriculture (DA), which shall provide assistance to qualified farmers with the following per cropping season:

- a. 5 sacks of fertilizers per hectare of farmland
- b. 2 Liters of insecticide

- c. 1 Liter of Herbicides
- d. 4 sacks of Seeds
- e. P 7,000 cash assistance for rent of farm equipment and labor fee

SECTION 4. Coverage.

The Program shall cover smallholder farmers registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), prioritizing those cultivating rice, corn, and high-value crops.

SECTION 5. Implementation.

The DA shall formulate the implementing rules and guidelines, including eligibility criteria, subsidy amounts, and distribution mechanisms, in coordination with relevant government agencies.

SECTION 6. Appropriations.

The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity.

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

Approved.