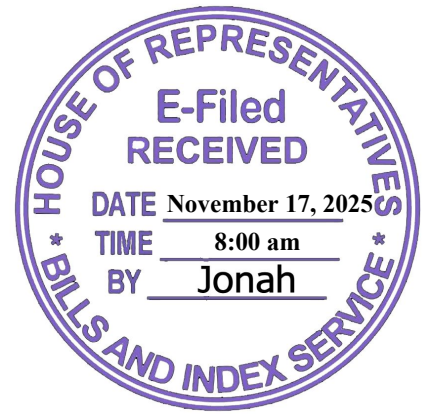


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5978



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution underscores the importance of agricultural modernization, equitable participation, and support to farmers. Article XII, Section 1 mandates the State to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform. In line with this, Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 mandates the creation of a comprehensive modernization plan to make the agriculture and fisheries sectors more productive, profitable, and competitive. Republic Act No. 10601 or Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law reinforces this by directing the Department of Agriculture to promote the use of modern agricultural and fisheries machinery and to establish post-harvest facilities to boost farmers' productivity. Likewise, Republic Act No. 7900 or High-Value Crops Development Act of 1995 recognizes the need for assistance in constructing post-harvest facilities to support high-value crop production.

While current laws mention post-harvest support, they often lack a strong, specific mandate that ensures widespread implementation. As a result, implementation has been uneven across regions, with many smallholder farmers and cooperatives still relying on traditional, inefficient, and high-loss post-harvest practices. Estimates indicate that as much as 12.7% to 15% of the annual rice production is lost due to inadequate facilities.¹ This persistent problem highlights the failure of existing measures to fully address the issue.

This bill therefore proposes a clear mandate to specific government agencies to construct warehouses and rice mills in every rice-producing municipality and city in the Philippines, ensuring that such support reaches farming communities nationwide. It also mandates the provision of equipment, machinery, and transport facilities necessary to operate these post-harvest centers.

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


HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

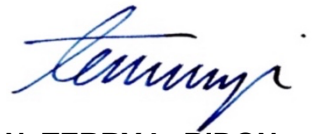
¹ Presidential Communications Office. (2024, January 17). *PH needs P93-B investment on post-harvest facilities to address rice, corn wastage, lower prices, says DA chief*. GOV.PH https://pco.gov.ph/news_releases/ph-needs-p93-b-investment-on-post-harvest-facilities-to-address-rice-corn-wastage-lower-prices-says-da-chief/

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HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE

A cursive signature in black ink, with a large, flowing 'S' at the beginning and a horizontal line at the end.

HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA

A cursive signature in blue ink, with a large, flowing 'T' at the beginning and a horizontal line at the end.

HON. TERRY L. RIDON

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5978

Introduced by HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO
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HON. TERRY L. RIDON

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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."

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

SECTION 3. *Construction of Post-Harvest Facilities.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and farmer 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 DA, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), DAR, 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 the Local Government.* – The concerned local government shall manage and operate the warehouses and rice mills constructed within 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 DPWH, DA, DAR, and DTI, shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,