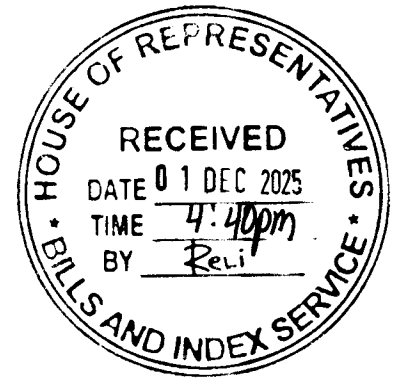


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6514

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF PROVINCIAL AGRO-PROCESSING CENTERS,
AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO
UNDERTAKE PROJECTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

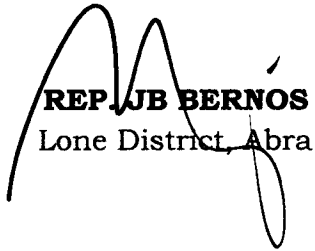
Agriculture remains the backbone of the Philippine economy, yet smallholder farmers continue to suffer from low farmgate prices, post-harvest losses, and dependency on middlemen who capture much of the value along the supply chain. Despite multiple interventions to enhance productivity, the lack of processing and value-adding infrastructure in provinces prevents farmers from transforming raw produce into market-ready goods that command higher prices. Existing initiatives such as the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and the Rice Processing System (RPS) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), as well as the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program under Republic Act No. 11321, have improved access to mechanization and enterprise support. However, these are often commodity-specific and implemented on a limited scale. Many provinces, particularly those producing corn, coffee, and root crops, remain without adequate processing facilities.

To address this gap, this bill proposes the establishment of an Accelerated Provincial Agro-Processing Centers Program, modeled after the Classroom-Building Accelerated Program (CAP) of the Department of Education. The measure introduces a fast-tracked, province-by-province construction mechanism for agro-processing centers (PAPCs) catering to rice, corn, coffee, and root crops. It explicitly mandates complementarity with existing programs, prevents duplication through a national inventory and audit certification, and authorizes local government units (LGUs) and private partners to participate in implementation.

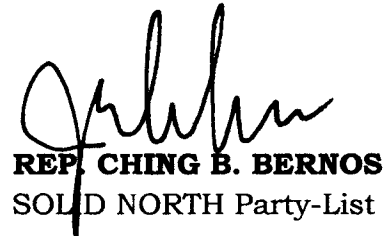
By providing every province with at least one fully operational and DA-certified agro-processing hub, this program will (1) reduce farmer dependence

on traders and middlemen, (2) increase rural employment through agro-industrialization, and (3) ensure that the benefits of agricultural growth reach the producers themselves.

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



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6514

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF PROVINCIAL AGRO-PROCESSING CENTERS,
AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO
UNDERTAKE PROJECTS, AND PROVIDING 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 “AgriBoost Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth by enabling farmers to participate in value-adding activities. The State shall establish an accelerated, province-based agro-processing program that supports agricultural productivity, food security, and rural industrialization while ensuring complementarity with existing programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and related agencies.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Provincial Agro-Processing Center (PAPC) - refers to a DA-certified provincial facility that provides drying, milling, roasting, grading, packaging, and storage services for at least two (2) priority crops among rice, corn, coffee, and root crops;
- (b) Accelerated Program - refers to the fast-tracked implementation mechanism modeled after the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP), allowing parallel project execution, simplified approvals, and delegated procurement authority;
- (c) Implementing LGU - refers to the provincial government, or a consortium of municipalities, authorized to implement and co-fund PAPC projects; and

- (d) Private Partner - refers to a duly registered private entity, cooperative, or enterprise engaged through public-private partnership (PPP) or co-investment agreements.

SEC. 4. Establishment of the Program. - There is hereby established an Accelerated Provincial Agro-Processing Centers Program (APAPCP) under the supervision of the DA, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech).

This program shall:

- (a) Construct, upgrade, or certify at least one (1) operational PAPC in each province within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, subject to the complementarity and audit provisions herein;
- (b) Employ a fast-tracked construction mechanism, modeled after CAP, that allows batch bidding, pre-qualified contractor pools, and simplified procurement procedures; and
- (c) Authorize LGUs and private entities to undertake construction and operation through joint ventures, build-operate-transfer (BOT), lease, or management agreements.

SEC. 5. Complementarity and Non-Duplication. - This Act shall complement and not duplicate existing national programs such as the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), the Rice Processing Systems (RPS) Program of PhilMech, and the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program under Republic Act No. 11321.

The DA shall utilize, upgrade, or certify existing facilities built under these programs if they meet the minimum standards for PAPCs under this Act, in lieu of constructing new ones. New construction shall only be permitted where the DA's National Agro-Processing Inventory identifies inadequate or absent processing capacity.

SEC. 6. National Agro-Processing Inventory. - Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, through PhilMech and the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS), shall publish a National Agro-Processing Inventory listing all government-funded and private processing facilities by province, including their capacity, operational status, and commodity coverage. The Inventory shall be publicly accessible and updated annually.

SEC. 7. Phased Implementation. - Implementation shall proceed in the following phases:

- (a) Phase I (Years 1-2): Top fifteen (15) producing provinces of rice, corn, coffee, or root crops with no existing certified processing center;
- (b) Phase II (Years 3-4): Secondary producing provinces and those with outdated or limited-capacity facilities;

- (c) Phase III (Year 5): Remaining provinces and island provinces with agricultural potential but inadequate processing infrastructure.

The DA may consolidate phases based on readiness and available funding.

SEC. 8. Role of LGUs and Private Sector Participation. – LGUs are authorized to:

- (a) Enter into co-financing, joint venture, or BOT arrangement with private entities for PAPC construction, upgrading, or operation;
- (b) Provide land, permits, and counterpart funds to expedite project implementation; and
- (c) Manage PAPCs directly or through cooperatives and accredited farmer organizations.

Private entities may operate PAPCs under transparent agreements ensuring farmer access and DA-regulated service fees.

SEC. 9. Standards and Transparency. – The DA shall prescribe:

- (a) Technical and environmental standards for PAPC certification, including minimum service capacity and environmental compliance;
- (b) Maximum service fees for drying, milling, and packaging, to prevent excessive charges by intermediaries; and
- (c) Transparency mechanisms, including public posting of fees and accessible complaint systems for farmer-users.

SEC. 10. Management and Farmer Representation. – Each PAPC shall have a Management Board composed of:

- (a) The Provincial Agriculturist (Chairperson);
- (b) A representative from the DA Regional Office;
- (c) Two (2) representatives from accredited farmer cooperatives or associations; and
- (d) One (1) representative from the private sector partner, if applicable.

The Board shall oversee equitable access, efficiency, and sustainability.

SEC. 11. Monitoring and Evaluation. – The DA shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing:

- (a) The number of PAPCs constructed, upgraded, or certified;
- (b) Provinces covered under each phase;
- (c) Number of farmer beneficiaries served; and
- (d) Impacts on farmer incomes and post-harvest losses.

SEC. 12. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the necessary sums shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The program may also source funds from grants, and grants, concessional loans, or private investments under PPP arrangements.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with DTI, NEDA, DBM, and COA, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,