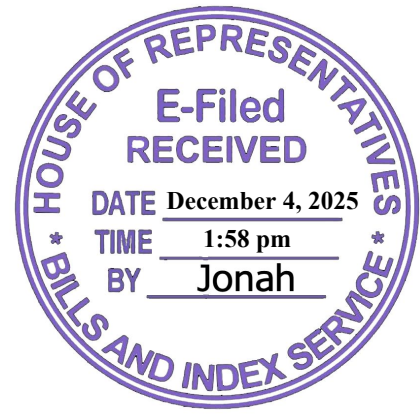


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6635



Introduced by HON. JAMES "JOJO" ANG JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, an agricultural country located in the so-called Pacific Typhoon Belt, has been experiencing an average of twenty (20) tropical cyclones annually, which cause irreparable damage to the agricultural sector and to the rural community's economy. Based on a 2024 report of the Department of Agriculture, the overall losses in agriculture were estimated at ₱4.8 billion, with more than 120,000 farmers and fisherflocks affected in typhoon-hit areas. In certain places, the water from the floods lasted for several weeks, which covered the seedlings and destroyed the already harvested crops.

The powerful typhoons of 2025, Typhoons *Tino* and *Uwan*, likewise had an extremely devastating impact the islands of Luzon and Visayas, where they destroyed thousands of hectares of rice, corn, and other high value crops.

The above scenarios bring forth a bitter truth: the natural disasters bring our Filipino farmers to a cycle of destruction and resilience. The existing support mechanisms like the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), and the SURE Aid Program have been instrumental in helping Filipino farmers, but still need supplemental assistance to help our them rise against the challenges of a disaster-prone country. A lot of small farmers still do not have the insurance, are not registered, or are not able to get the recovery assistance on time.

Under the current guidelines of PCIC, the premium for rice and corn is on average 10% of the insured value, while the premium for vegetables, fruit trees, and commercial plantation crops is at 3%. The maximum coverage also differs:

- For rice, the average maximum insurance cover is ₱16,800 to ₱20,000 per hectare, depending on production cost and location.

- For corn, coverage ranges from ₱8,000 per hectare for open-pollinated varieties to ₱14,000 per hectare for hybrids.
- For high-value crops, insurance coverage is typically based on farm area and type, but remains far below actual recovery needs.

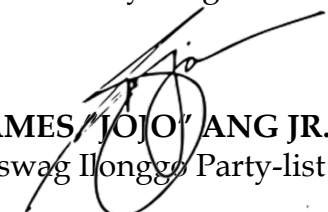
These coverage levels are only about one-third of the average production cost for rice, which is estimated at ₱60,000 per hectare, leaving farmers with little capacity to recover after major storms.

This bill aims to fill the protection gap, by putting a dual-layer resilience framework in place to protect our farmers and fisherfolks: first, an index-based crop insurance program, auto-activated by PAGASA-verified weather data for immediate and just compensation without the need for a calamity declaration; and second, a Direct Typhoon Recovery Assistance Program that gives outright cash assistance to registered farmers hit by typhoon incidents. Disaster resilience then becomes more than just an idea as every Filipino farmer, especially the micro and small-scale ones, will be able to rebuild their farms and lives after every typhoon.

Furthermore, transparency is also the core of this bill. The Department of Agriculture is mandated to establish a publicly accessible Beneficiary Dashboard to monitor the flow of funds and beneficiaries, thus encouraging responsibility and gaining public trust.

This bill will take care of our agricultural front liners, stabilizing food security, giving respect for rural farm households, and the government's compliance with the constitutional mandate to achieve a fair and dynamic social order.

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



JAMES "JOJO" ANG JR.
Uswag Ilonggo Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6635

Introduced by HON. JAMES “JOJO” ANG JR.

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING FARMERS’ DISASTER RESILIENCE
THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE CROP INSURANCE AND TYPHOON RECOVERY
PROGRAM, PROVIDING GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FOR PREMIUMS, ENSURING
TRANSPARENT DISBURSEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “FARM RESCUE Act of
2 2025” or the “Farmers’ Agricultural Resilience and Mitigation through Reliable
3 Emergency Support and Crop Insurance Act.”

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 uphold and promote the welfare of the agricultural sector as mandated by the
6 Constitution.

7 Pursuant to Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State shall
8 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure prosperity and independence,
9 free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,
10 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for
11 all.

12 The State further recognizes that farmers are the backbone of national food
13 security. It shall therefore institutionalize systems of disaster resilience, crop protection,
14 and recovery assistance to ensure continuity of livelihood and food production after

every calamity.

SEC. 3. Objectives. - This Act aims to:

- a) Protect small farmers from climate-related crop loss through an efficient, science-based insurance mechanism;
- b) Provide immediate recovery support following typhoon destruction;
- c) Establish transparent and digitalized disbursement systems;
- d) Integrate crop insurance, climate data, and disaster aid into one national resilience framework; and
- e) Promote financial inclusion and long-term agricultural sustainability.

SEC. 4. Comprehensive Agricultural Resilience Framework. - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), shall establish a dual-track framework consisting of:

- a) An Index-Based Crop Insurance Program; and
- b) A Typhoon Recovery Assistance Program.

SEC. 5. Crop Insurance Program for Small Farmers. - The DA shall establish a Crop Insurance Program (CIP) which shall extend to all palay, corn, and other crop farmers cultivating not more than eight (8) hectares, duly registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).

Small Farmers eligible for the CIP shall have the following subsidies:

- a) Full (100%) government subsidy for farmers cultivating up to five (5) hectares;
- b) Fifty percent (50%) government subsidy for those cultivating more than five (5) but not exceeding eight (8) hectares;
- c) Farmers' premium share may be paid in cash or in kind through paddy or equivalent produce;

The CIP shall be triggered automatically by PAGASA-certified weather data once predetermined rainfall, flood, or wind thresholds are breached, without need for a declaration of a state of calamity for payout release.

1 **SEC. 6. Existing PCIC Premium Rates and Coverage.** - The existing PCIC rates
2 shall serve as the baseline for coverage under the CIP, and may be adjusted by PCIC every
3 three (3) years based on inflation, production cost, and risk assessment.

4 **SEC. 7. Typhoon Recovery Assistance Program.** - The DA shall establish a
5 Typhoon Recovery Assistance Program (TRAP) which will provide unconditional
6 financial aid to farmers whose crops are damaged or destroyed by PAGASA-declared
7 typhoons. Beneficiaries of the TRAP must be RSBSA-registered and validated by their
8 respective Municipal Agriculture Offices (MAOs). In cases of total or near-total loss, an
9 additional Recovery Supplement shall be granted in amount to be determined by DA
10 based on extent of loss and available resources. Assistance to be given to the Beneficiaries
11 shall be released within fifteen (15) calendar days after damage validation.

12 **SEC. 8. Determination of Beneficiaries.** - The DA, through its Regional Field
13 Offices, shall coordinate with Local Government Units (LGUs) to identify eligible farmers
14 to the TRAP. Inclusion shall be the RSBSA master list, validated through MAOs and
15 Barangay Agricultural and Fishery Councils. In the absence of RSBSA registration,
16 temporary inclusion may be allowed upon submission of verified tenancy or ownership
17 proof, subject to later validation.

18 **SEC. 9. Digitalized Disbursement System.** - Funds shall be transferred directly to
19 farmers through secure, government-accredited digital financial service providers such
20 as e-wallets, government banks or cooperatives. Physical cash payouts shall only be
21 permitted in remote areas lacking digital access.

22 **SEC. 10. Beneficiary Dashboard and Transparency Mechanism.** - The DA shall
23 maintain a centralized public Beneficiary Dashboard, displaying in real time:

- 24 a) Verified names of beneficiaries;
- 25 b) Amounts disbursed;
- 26 c) Dates of release;

1 d) Status of insurance claims; and

2 e) Aggregate reports by province.

3 All data shall comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (R.A. 10173).

4 ***SEC. 11. Risk Assessment and Actuarial Review.*** - The PCIC shall conduct an
5 actuarial study every three (3) years to review premium adequacy and payout thresholds,
6 incorporating updated climate and loss data from PAGASA and the National Disaster
7 Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

8 ***SEC. 12. Climate and Technology Integration.*** - The DA, PCIC, and PAGASA shall
9 jointly develop digital platforms for satellite-based weather monitoring and remote
10 damage verification to ensure speed, accuracy, and transparency.

11 ***SEC. 13. Inclusion of Fisherfolk and Livestock Farmers.*** - Within two (2) years from
12 effectivity, the DA shall expand this framework to cover fisherfolk, poultry, and livestock
13 raisers under similar index-based protection mechanisms.

14 ***SEC. 14. Public Awareness and Capacity Building.*** - The DA, in cooperation with
15 LGUs and agricultural schools, shall conduct annual training for farmers on climate
16 resilience, insurance literacy, and disaster preparedness.

17 ***SEC. 15. Coordination with Local Governments.*** - LGUs shall designate
18 Agricultural Resilience Focal Persons responsible for program rollout, farmer registration
19 and coordination with DA Regional Offices.

20 ***SEC. 16. Incentives for Compliance.*** - LGUs achieving ninety-five percent (95%)
21 farmer registration and timely reporting shall be eligible for additional funding under the
22 Special Farmers Resilience Fund.

23 ***SEC. 17. Penalties for Misuse of Funds or False Claims.***

- 1 a) Any public officer who knowingly approves false claims or misuses funds shall
2 be punished under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (R.A. 3019).
3 b) Any individual who falsifies documents to obtain insurance payouts shall be
4 liable under the Revised Penal Code and permanently barred from future
5 participation.

6 **SEC. 18. Appropriations.** - The initial funding for this Act shall be charged to the
7 current appropriations of the DA and PCIC. Thereafter, necessary sums shall be included
8 in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

9 A Special Farmers Resilience Fund is hereby created, to be administered by the
10 DA, consisting of appropriations, insurance premiums, penalties, and grants from
11 domestic or international partners.
12

13 **SEC. 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** - Within sixty (60) days from
14 effectivity, the DA, in coordination with PCIC, DBM, PAGASA, BSP, and NDRRMC, shall
15 promulgate the IRR of this Act.

16 **SEC. 20. Separability and Repealing Clause** - If any provision of this Act is
17 declared invalid, the remainder shall continue in force.
18 All inconsistent laws and regulations are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19 **SEC. 21. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
20 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

21 Approved,
22