

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6964



Introduced by **ABONO Party-list Representative**
HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The agriculture sector depends heavily on fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals to sustain productivity, food security, and farmer livelihoods. However, the existing regulatory framework has not kept pace with technological change, digital commerce, and increasingly complex supply chains. The continued circulation of fake, adulterated, misbranded, and unregistered agricultural chemicals—particularly through online platforms—poses serious risks to farmers, consumers, and the environment.

This measure seeks to modernize and strengthen the regulation of agricultural chemicals by updating the mandate, powers, and institutional capacity of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA). It establishes a science-based, transparent, and risk-informed regulatory framework that promotes effective oversight while ensuring due process and coordination among concerned government agencies.

The bill clarifies the jurisdiction of the FPA over agricultural chemicals used in crop agriculture and harmonizes its functions with those of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Customs, and Department of Information and Communications Technology. It also institutionalizes digital licensing, product traceability, and appropriate regulation of online marketplaces to address emerging risks in digital trade.

By strengthening post-registration monitoring, laboratory and scientific capacity, environmental compliance, and product stewardship requirements, this measure aims to ensure that agricultural chemical inputs remain safe, effective, and responsibly managed throughout their life cycle, in support of a competitive and sustainable agricultural sector.

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


Rep. Robert Raymund M. Estrella
ABONO Party-list

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House Bill No. ~~6954~~ **6954**

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HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR
FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS,
RESTRUCTURING THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Fertilizer, Pesticide and Other Agricultural Chemicals Modernization Act of 2026*".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to ensure the safe, effective, and sustainable use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals essential to food security and agricultural productivity. In pursuit of this, the State shall:

- a. protect the public from risks associated with unregistered, adulterated, fake, off-specification, or unsafe chemical inputs;
- b. strengthen and modernize the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) and ensure its scientific and regulatory independence;
- c. integrate technological, digital, and laboratory innovations into the regulatory system;
- d. establish predictable, science-based, and transparent regulatory processes;
- e. align regulatory functions with the mandates of cognizant agencies, including DENR, DA, DOH, DTI, BOC, DICT, and LGUs;
- f. support farmers, fisherfolk, and agricultural enterprises by ensuring availability of safe, affordable, and quality inputs.

ARTICLE II DEFINITION OF TERMS

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- a. **Fertilizer** – a substance applied to soil or plant to improve nutrition, growth, or yield;
- b. **Pesticide** – any substance or mixture intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate pests, or regulate plant growth;
- c. **Other Agricultural Chemicals** – adjuvants, plant hormones, soil conditioners, biological inoculants, and similar crop-use inputs not defined as fertilizer or pesticide;
- d. **Certificate of Product Registration (CPR)** – authorization issued by the FPA following evaluation of the safety, quality, efficacy, and environmental profile of a product;
- e. **License to Operate (LTO)** – authorization granted by the FPA to establishments and handlers engaged in regulated activities;
- f. **Handler** – any person or entity engaged in manufacturing, importation, exportation, wholesale, retail, repacking, transport, storage, or use of regulated products;
- g. **Accreditation** – recognition by the FPA that a person or entity meets specific technical and administrative qualifications;
- h. **Hazard Classification** – categorization of regulated products based on toxicity, environmental persistence, mode of action, and risk profile; and
- i. **Registrant** – any person applying for issuance or renewal of a CPR.

Technical, scientific, and operational definitions shall be provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

ARTICLE III FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

SEC. 4. *Mandate and Structure.* - The FPA is the primary agency responsible for regulating fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals used in crop agriculture.

It shall be headed by an Executive Director with the rank of Assistant Secretary, assisted by two (2) Deputy Executive Directors, and supported by properly staffed technical, legal, scientific, laboratory, enforcement, regional, and administrative units.

SEC. 5. *Organizational Flexibility.* - The FPA may create, merge, reorganize, or abolish internal units subject to DBM and CSC approval to ensure efficient and science-based regulation.

SEC. 6. *Regional Hubs.* - The FPA shall establish **Regional Hubs**, headed by Regional Directors, to deliver frontline services, field enforcement, sample collection, laboratory coordination, and stakeholder support.

SEC. 7. *Personnel Protection.* - Existing personnel shall not be separated from service except for cause and in accordance with civil service rules. Necessary reassignments shall not diminish rank, salary, or tenure.

ARTICLE IV POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FPA

SEC. 8. *Regulatory Powers.* – The FPA shall:

- a. regulate, evaluate, register, and oversee all fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural chemicals under its jurisdiction;
- b. issue, renew, suspend, or revoke CPRs and LTOs;
- c. classify products by hazard level; and
- d. set standards and requirements for manufacturing, importation, exportation, distribution, storage, transport, marketing, and disposal.

SEC. 9. *Enforcement Powers.* – The FPA may:

- a. conduct inspections, sampling, surveillance, and audits;
- b. issue compliance orders, stop-sale orders, and product recalls;
- c. seize, detain, quarantine, or destroy non-compliant products following due process;
- d. issue temporary closure orders for imminent danger cases, subject to hearings within five (5) days; and
- e. coordinate with BOC, PNP, NBI, LGUs, and other agencies for law enforcement.

All enforcement actions shall observe notice, hearing, appeal, and review procedures outlined in the IRR.

SEC. 10. *Laboratory and Scientific Powers.* – The FPA shall:

- a. operate central and satellite laboratories;
- b. accredit public or private laboratories based on ISO/IEC 17025 or equivalent standards; and

- c. conduct risk assessments, quality tests, and post-registration evaluations.

SEC. 11. *Policy and Standards Powers.* – The FPA shall formulate technical regulations, guidelines, and hazard-based classification systems consistent with international standards (FAO, WHO, Codex).

SEC. 12. *Coordination Powers.* – The FPA shall coordinate with:

- a. **Department of Health (DOH)/Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** on residue limits and food safety;
- b. **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)/ Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)** on hazardous waste and environmental release;
- c. **Bureau of Customs (BOC)** on import and border enforcement;
- d. **Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)** on digital regulation;
- e. **Local Government Units (LGUs)** on monitoring and enforcement; and
- f. **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)** on market surveillance issues.

SEC. 13. *Primary Jurisdiction Clause.* - The FPA shall exercise primary jurisdiction **only** over fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural chemicals used in crop agriculture, without prejudice to the authorities of DOH/FDA, DENR/EMB, BAI, NMIS, and related agencies.

ARTICLE V DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND E-COMMERCE REGULATION

SEC. 14. *Digital Licensing and Registration.* - The FPA shall operate an online portal for all CPR, LTO, accreditation, and clearance transactions, using digital signatures and authenticated electronic documents.

SEC. 15. *QR Code Product Verification.* - All registered products shall bear QR codes linked to FPA's public database.

SEC. 16. *Online Platform Regulation.* – Online platforms shall:

- a. require sellers to present valid CPRs and LTOs;
- b. delist illegal products within seventy-two (72) hours of FPA notice; and
- c. submit compliance reports when required.

Platforms shall be given notice and opportunity to respond before administrative action is taken.

SEC. 17. *Cross-Border E-Commerce.* - The FPA shall coordinate with BOC and DICT to regulate online imports, using electronic verification, risk profiling, and harmonized border procedures.

ARTICLE VI LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND ACCREDITATION

SEC. 18. *License to Operate (LTO).* - All handlers of regulated products must secure an LTO prior to operation. The validity periods of license to operate shall be three (3) years for the first approval and upon renewal, shall have a validity of five (5) years thereafter, for the handlers of fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals.

SEC. 19. *Product Registration (CPR).* - No product may be imported, manufactured, sold, transported, distributed, or used without a valid CPR.

Criteria include safety, efficacy, quality, environmental impact, and hazard classification.

SEC. 20. *Accreditation.* - The FPA shall accredit laboratories, applicators, trainers, and other technical entities based on standards detailed in the IRR.

ARTICLE VII BORDER CONTROL, MARKET MONITORING, AND INSPECTIONS

SEC. 21. *Border Control.* – All regulated imports or exports shall require FPA-issued product registration confirmation and importation clearance.

BOC retains primary border enforcement authority under the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA); FPA shall provide technical verification.

SEC. 22. *National Market Monitoring System.* – Manufacturers, importers, and distributors shall submit periodic reports on:

- a. inventory;
- b. production;
- c. imports; and
- d. prices.

Confidential business information shall be protected under existing trade and data privacy laws.

SEC. 23. *Inspection and Monitoring.* – The FPA may inspect establishments, warehouses, ports, dealers, and online points of sale at any time.

ARTICLE VIII POST-REGISTRATION MONITORING

SEC. 24. *Periodic Re-Evaluation.* - All registered products shall undergo mandatory re-evaluation every five (5) years, or sooner if safety, efficacy, or environmental concerns arise.

SEC. 25. *Environmental Compliance.* - Disposal of banned, obsolete, expired, or contaminated products shall comply with Republic Act No. 6969 and DENR-EMB standards under joint guidelines.

ARTICLE IX INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND STEWARDSHIP

SEC. 26. *Public Information Campaigns.* – The FPA shall conduct continuous education on the safe handling, use, transport, and disposal of regulated products for farmers, dealers, LGUs, and stakeholders.

SEC. 27. *Stewardship Programs.* - All registrants shall submit a Stewardship Plan covering safe use, resistance management, disposal, and emergency response.

ARTICLE X SUPPORT TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK

SEC. 28. *Regulatory Support.* – The FPA shall provide technical and regulatory assistance to farmers' and fisherfolk enterprises under Republic Act No. 11321, otherwise known as the Sagip Saka Act.

ARTICLE XI PROHIBITIONS

SEC.. 29. *Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful to:

- a. Operate without an LTO;
- b. Import, manufacture, sell, or use any unregistered or banned product;
- c. Produce, trade, or possess fake, adulterated, off-specification, or mislabeled products;
- d. Obstruct inspection or refuse sampling;
- e. Misuse or falsify certifications, permits, or registrations;

- f. Smuggle regulated products; and
- g. Dispose of regulated chemicals in violation of environmental laws.

ARTICLE XII

ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES

SEC. 30. *Notice of Violation (NOV), Stop Use, Move, and Sale (SUMS) Order , and Show Cause Order (SCO)* - Upon identifying any prohibited act outlined in the preceding section, such as the distribution, sale, or use of fertilizers, pesticides, or other agricultural chemicals that are fake, adulterated, mislabeled, unregistered, underweight, or otherwise non-compliant with FPA rules and regulations, the FPA shall issue a Notice of Violation to the responsible party.

Concurrently, the FPA shall issue a Stop Use, Move, and Sale (SUMS) Order ,to confiscate and hold the non-compliant products at a designated location until the violation is resolved or compliance is achieved, as determined by the FPA.

Following the issuance of the NOV and SUMS, the FPA shall serve a Show Cause Order (SCO) to the responsible party, requiring a written explanation within five (5) working days from receipt of the SCO. The SCO may be served via the FPA's designated email address or in person by authorized FPA officers.

SEC. 31. *Administrative Sanctions.* - The FPA may impose the following administrative sanctions based on the circumstances of each case:

1. Written Warning;
2. Fines ranging from Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) to One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) per violation;
3. Suspension or revocation of the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) or License to Operate (LTO), as applicable; and/or;
4. Confiscation, recall, or destruction of products; and
5. Other sanctions or remedies as provided under applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

The imposition of these sanctions shall not preclude the filing of civil, criminal, or additional administrative actions under relevant laws and regulations.

SEC. 32. *Criminal Penalties.* - Any person who violates any provision of this Act, or any rule or regulation issued or promulgated by the FPA pertaining to fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals shall be subject to the following criminal penalties, depending on the amount involved:

- a. If the market value of the product(s) involved is One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) or more, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of fifteen (15) years and one (1) day but not more than twenty (20) years, and a fine ranging from an amount equal to the value involved to three (3) times such value, but which shall in no case be less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00);
- b. If the market value of the product(s) involved is Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) or more but less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00), the penalty shall be imprisonment of ten (10) years and one (1) day but not more than fifteen (15) years, and a fine ranging from an amount equal to the value involved to three (3) times such value, but which shall in no case be less than One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱150,000.00); and
- c. If the market value of the product(s) is Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00) or more but less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00), the penalty shall be imprisonment of five (5) years and one (1) day but not more than ten (10) years, and a fine ranging from an amount equal to the value involved to three (3) times such value, but which shall in no case be less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (₱30,000.00).

Where the amount involved cannot be determined, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of one (1) year and one (1) day but not more than five (5) years, and a fine of not less than One hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) to Five hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00).

Provided, that if falsification of a public or commercial document is committed in connection with any of the foregoing acts, the offender shall be imposed the maximum penalty of imprisonment and fine applicable under the immediately preceding paragraphs.

SEC. 33. *Corporate Liability.* - Officers and responsible employees shall be liable when violations occur through their knowledge, consent, or gross negligence.

ARTICLE XIII APPEALS PROCESS

SEC 34. *Administrative Remedies.* - All decisions, resolutions or rulings issued by the FPA shall be in writing and served upon the parties concerned.

Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of such decision, resolution or ruling, an aggrieved party may file a Motion for Reconsideration before the FPA, stating clearly the factual or legal grounds relied upon. Only one (1) motion for reconsideration shall be allowed. The FPA shall resolve the motion within sixty (60) days from filing.

Where authorized, a party may seek further administrative review of the FPA's final decision, resolution or ruling before the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the applicable rules of the reviewing authority. No action involving matters within the FPA's competence shall be brought before the courts unless the party has first exhausted all adequate and available administrative remedies, including a motion for reconsideration before the FPA.

and, where available, further administrative review before the Secretary of Agriculture.

ARTICLE XIV FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 35. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for initial implementation, including digital systems, laboratories, and enforcement upgrades, is appropriated from the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 36. *FPA Regulatory Fee System* - The FPA is authorized to set, revise, and collect fees for registration, licensing, accreditation, laboratory services, and digital verification systems, subject to DBM review.

SEC. 37. *FPA Revolving Fund.* - There is likewise hereby created a Revolving Fund under the FPA, to be maintained in accordance with pertinent government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.. The FPA Revolving Fund shall be sourced from the fines, service fees, and surcharges collected by the FPA .

The accumulated Revolving Fund shall constitute a contingency fund to defray expenses incurred in the conduct of entrapment and other enforcement operations, as well as other extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures which, although not considered part of regular or routine expenses, are deemed necessary and incidental to the effective performance by the FPA of its regulatory and enforcement functions in addressing emergent or unexpected circumstances.

The Revolving Fund may also accept donations, grants, or contributions from private or government agencies, whether domestic or foreign, for purposes consistent with the mandates and objectives of the FPA.

All receipts and expenditures under the Revolving Fund shall be subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations on government accounting and auditing.

ARTICLE XV FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 38. *Harmonization Clause.* - All existing DA, FPA, and inter-agency issuances remain valid unless inconsistent with this Act. The IRR shall identify orders to be repealed or amended.

SEC. 39. *Transitory Provision.* - Existing industries, businesses, and offices affected by the provisions of this Act shall be granted a transitory period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, or such other period as the Authority may determine, to comply with the requirements set forth herein.

SEC. 40. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 41. *Repealing Clause.* - Presidential Decree No. 1144 and all laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 42. *Effectivity Clause.* - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,