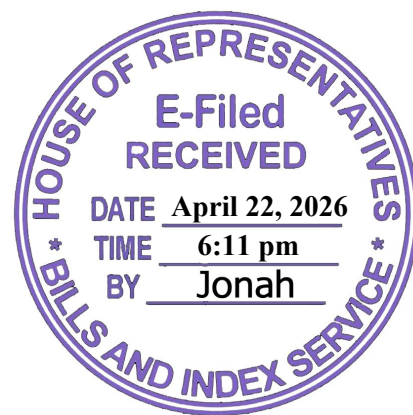


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8950



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide comprehensive post-harvest facilities for *palay* and rice farmers by mandating the construction of warehouses and rice mills, and the provision of essential equipment and machinery. This reduces post-harvest losses, improves product quality, and increases farmers' incomes. It also aims to strengthen the agricultural value chain by ensuring that farmers have access to adequate infrastructure necessary to process, store, and market their produce efficiently.

Despite the vital role of rice farmers in ensuring national food security, many continue to suffer from inadequate post-harvest support. The lack of accessible and modern facilities such as warehouses and rice mills results in significant losses due to spoilage, inefficient processing, and poor storage conditions. These challenges force farmers to sell their produce at lower prices immediately after harvest, often to middlemen, thereby reducing their potential earnings and limiting their participation in value-added activities.

This proposed measure directly addresses these concerns by directing the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), to construct post-harvest facilities in rice-producing areas across the country. It ensures that every legislative district with rice-producing municipalities will have access to at least one warehouse and one rice mill, particularly during the initial phase of implementation.

Furthermore, the bill mandates the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in coordination with relevant agencies and farmer cooperatives, to provide the necessary equipment, machinery, and transport facilities to support the efficient operation of these infrastructures. It also empowers farmers' cooperatives by allowing them to acquire these facilities through an

affordable, long-term, and interest-free amortization scheme, thereby promoting ownership, sustainability, and inclusive growth within the agricultural sector.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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House Bill No. **8950**

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AN ACT
PROVIDING POST-HARVEST FACILITIES FOR PALAY AND RICE FARMERS

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure national food security through the promotion of agricultural and rural development. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to provide for agricultural infrastructure and facilities necessary to increase the farmers’ incomes and reduce the cost of agricultural produce, particularly *palay*. Furthermore, the State shall strengthen farmers’ organizations and cooperatives as essential partners in achieving its economic and agricultural goals.

SEC. 3. *Construction of Post-Harvest Facilities.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and in consultation with concerned 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 legislative district with at least one rice producing municipality shall be the beneficiary of at least one (1) warehouse and one (1) rice mill.

SEC. 4. *Provision of Equipment and Machineries.* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in consultation with the DA, the DAR and farmers’ cooperatives, shall provide the equipment and machineries, including

transport facilities, necessary to complement and operate the warehouses and rice mills: *Provided*, That such warehouses and rice mills, including the equipment, machineries and transport facilities required to operate them, shall be sold to the concerned accredited farmers' cooperatives which shall be given a period of twenty-five (25) years within which to amortize the cost of the same without interest.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, the DAR, the DPWH and the DTI shall jointly formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby initially appropriated for the program upon approval of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary to pursue the program shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act, funding of which shall partly be sourced from the savings realized from the phasing out of palay and rice subsidies, and from the amortizations accumulated thereof.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act, or any parts thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,