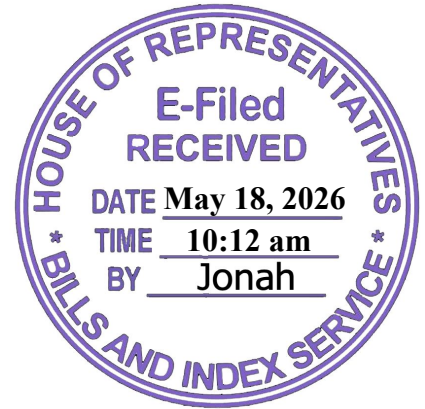


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9273



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
PROVIDING POST-HARVEST FACILITIES TO RICE FARMERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “[t]he State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers’ organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.”

Republic Act No. 7900, otherwise known as the “High-Value Crops Development Act of 1995,” recognizes the value of post-harvest facilities for the development of high-value crops. Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the “Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997,” mandates the creation of an Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan (AFMP) with a focus on “food security, poverty alleviation and social equity, income enhancement and profitability, especially for farmers and fisherfolk,” among others. Republic Act No. 10610, otherwise known as the “Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law,” reinforces this by mandating the promotion of “the development and adoption of modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally-safe agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment to enhance farm productivity and efficiency in order to achieve food security and safety and increase farmers’ income.”

However, despite the numerous laws that recognize the need for post-harvest facilities and mandate their construction and development, our country’s agriculture sector continues to face significant challenges on food security, productivity, profitability, and competitiveness, which is attributed to post-harvest losses and exacerbated by the sector’s vulnerability to typhoons and climate events like El Niño and La Niña.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA) in 2024, the Philippines is losing an average of 342,000 metric tons of rice, or the equivalent of P7.89 billion in

post-harvest losses annually.¹ The country is also losing an average of 151,000 metric tons in corn, equivalent to P2.87 billion annually, in post-harvest losses.² The DA attributes these losses primarily to the country's inadequate supply chain infrastructure, with the country still lagging behind agricultural countries in terms of post-harvest facilities.³

As of 2024, the country has a cold storage capacity of 37 cubic meters per 1,000 residents, which is lower than Vietnam's 116, China's 132, and the 200 of North American countries.⁴

As domestic rice production continues to decline, driven by depressed farmgate prices and ongoing land conversion, and compounded by post-harvest losses, the country's rice security is put at risk and left vulnerable to price shocks.⁵ This is especially problematic considering that rice is a staple in every Filipino diet. The country's vulnerability to post-harvest losses thus poses not just an agricultural profitability and productivity issue, but also a food security issue.

As such, this bill seeks to address this nationwide agricultural and food security challenge by mandating the construction of warehouses and rice mills in every rice-producing municipality and city in the Philippines. Initially, every district with at least one rice-producing municipality shall be a mandated beneficiary of at least one warehouse and rice mill.

In the 20th Congress, similar bills were filed by Representatives Ferdinand Beltran, Howard Guintu, Faustino "Bojie" Dy III, Miguel Luis Villafuerte, Vincenzo Luigi Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Horibata, and Terry Ridon, and Senators Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan and Christopher "Bong" Go. This bill fully adopts Senator Pangilinan's Senate Bill No. 222.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LEILA M. DE LIMA

¹ Manahan, J. (24 June 2024). Average post-harvest losses in rice more than P7 billion per year, says DA. ABS-CBN News. Retrieved from <https://www.abs-cbn.com/business/2024/6/24/average-post-harvest-losses-in-rice-more-than-p7-billion-per-year-says-da-1450>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Mendoza, T. (17 December 2025). PH faces rice crisis amid Vietnam's rising export prices, domestic production decline. Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://opinion.inquirer.net/188293/ph-faces-rice-crisis-amid-vietnams-rising-export-prices-domestic-production-decline>.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING POST-HARVEST FACILITIES TO RICE FARMERS

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

1 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Post-Harvest*
2 *Facilities Support Act of 2026.*”
3

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote
5 agricultural and rural development. Specifically, the State aims to raise farm incomes
6 to a level high enough to allow farmers to satisfy their material needs and enhance
7 their self-esteem. It is also the policy of the State to encourage, promote and
8 strengthen non-government organizations, such as farmer organizations,
9 cooperatives, and enterprises.
10

11 SEC. 3. *Post-Harvest Facilities.* – The Department of Public Works and
12 Highways (DPWH), in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the
13 Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and farmer cooperatives, shall construct
14 warehouses and rice mills in every rice-producing municipality and city in the
15 Philippines: *Provided*, That in the initial phase of the program, every district with at
16 least one rice-producing municipality shall be the beneficiary of at least one warehouse
17 and rice mill.
18

19 Additionally, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in consultation
20 with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR),
21 and farmer cooperatives, shall provide the equipment and machinery required to
22 operate these warehouses and rice mills such as Flatbed Dryers and Threshers, as
23 well as the necessary transport facilities.
24

1 SEC. 4. *Acquisition of Farmer Cooperatives.* – The warehouses and rice mills,
2 including the equipment and machinery required to operate them, shall be sold at cost
3 to accredited farmer cooperatives, which will be given twenty-five (25) years to
4 amortize the facilities.
5

6 SEC. 5. *Stakeholder Consultations.* – Through their authorized representatives,
7 whose ranks should not be lower than a Bureau or Regional Director, the Department
8 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the
9 Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and the Department of Trade and Industry
10 (DTI) shall conduct consultations with beneficiaries and project stakeholders from the
11 planning to evaluation stages of the post-harvest facility project. To assist them,
12 Technical Working Groups (TWGs) may be constituted per project.
13

14 SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective
15 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations for the
16 Department of Agriculture (DA). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its
17 continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act:
18 *Provided,* That funding support for agencies implementing the Program shall be
19 included in the necessary appropriations for this Act.
20

21 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the
22 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the
23 Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and the
24 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules
25 and regulations necessary for the full implementation of this Act.
26

27 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is declared
28 invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions not affected thereby shall
29 continue to be in full force and effect.
30

31 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive and
32 administrative orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
33 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
34 accordingly.
35

36 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
37 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
38 Philippines.

Approved,