

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9731



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING POSTHARVEST FACILITIES IN EVERY RICE, CORN AND
HIGH-VALUE CROP PRODUCING CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite decades of heavy public investment and billions in subsidies focused almost exclusively on boosting crop production, the Philippine agricultural sector remains trapped in a severe, systemic postharvest crisis.

Due to an increasingly volatile climate, a critical deficit of modern facilities, and the archaic, desperate practice of drying palay on the shoulders of public highways, Filipino farmers routinely lose up to a third of their total yield before it ever reaches a mill or market. This structural vulnerability fractures our entire rural economy. It forces impoverished farming families to sell damp, rapidly deteriorating harvests to predatory middlemen at rock-bottom prices just to survive, while urban consumers are left to bear the burden of volatile, artificially inflated food prices.

The proposed bill offers a permanent, state-backed solution by fundamentally shifting our national agricultural strategy from what we can grow to what we can actually preserve and protect.

By mandating the construction of modern postharvest hubs—equipped with temperature-controlled cold storage, grain silos, and automated mechanical dryers—in every producing locality, the bill grants farming communities the ultimate market leverage: the power of time. Safe, sophisticated storage means farmers are no longer at the mercy of immediate biological decay; they can securely stock their yields, wait out temporary seasonal gluts, and sell their produce when market prices stabilize to reflect its true economic value.

Furthermore, this legislation introduces a critical layer of operational resilience by bypassing top-heavy national bureaucracies. By placing the

everyday management of these facilities squarely in the hands of Local Government Units (LGUs) working in direct partnership with local farmer cooperatives, the bill ensures that infrastructure remains highly responsive to the *immediate, shifting needs of the actual community*.

On a global scale, this act directly fulfills the Philippines' commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by cutting food supply chain losses. On a national level, it serves as an indispensable shield against our costly, dangerous reliance on foreign food imports.

True food sovereignty is an impossibility if we continue to let millions of metric tons of domestic crops rot out of basic infrastructure neglect. Passing this bill is a defining choice to secure our borders, stabilize our economy, and finally protect the food already grown by Filipino hands.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Conrad', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9731

Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING POSTHARVEST FACILITIES IN EVERY RICE, CORN AND
HIGH-VALUE CROP PRODUCING CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AND
APPROPRIATING 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 “City/Municipality Postharvest Facilities Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural development by reducing postharvest losses, improving product quality, and increasing the income and competitiveness of Filipino farmers, maximize agricultural productivity and ensure stable, affordable supply for all Filipinos.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure the establishment and accessibility of efficient postharvest facilities for farmers and farmer cooperatives, strengthen local agricultural value chains by improving drying, storage, milling, and processing systems, and provide the necessary support, machinery, and infrastructure to reduce crop losses, preserve product quality, and enhance farmers’ profitability and resilience.

SEC. 3. Establishment of Postharvest Facilities. - The Department of Agriculture (DA) and Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and farmer cooperatives, shall construct, establish, upgrade, or rehabilitate postharvest facilities in every rice, corn, and high-value crop-producing municipality and city.

These postharvest facilities may include:

- a) Mechanical and solar dryers;

- b) Storage facilities such as warehouses, silos, and cold storage units;
- c) Milling and processing equipment;
- d) Sorting, grading, and packaging systems; and
- e) Transport and handling equipment that support post-harvest operations.

The DA and PhilMech shall prioritize the establishment of postharvest facilities in cities or municipalities producing rice, corn and high-value crops without post-harvest facilities.

SEC. 4. Role of Local Government Units. - The local government units shall manage and operate the postharvest facilities within their respective areas, in coordination with farmer cooperatives and accredited farmers' organizations. LGUs shall ensure that these facilities remain accessible, operational, sustainable, and beneficial to local farmers, and shall establish local guidelines to promote efficient facility management and maintenance.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of DA and PhilMech. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended, or revised accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,