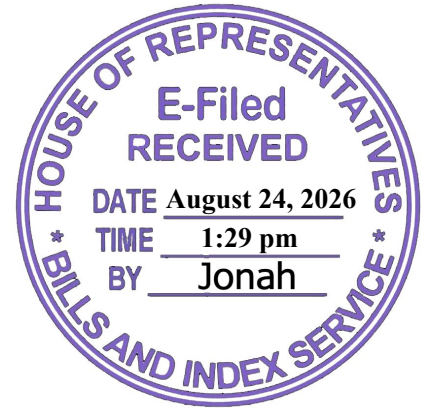


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10865



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, at its core, an agricultural economy, yet the persistent paradox of its farm sector is not scarcity, but supply mismatch. The bountiful harvests of our farmers often go to rot or are sold at a loss, while nearby markets face shortages and higher prices for the very same commodities. This chronic disruption is a traceable crisis that recurs due to failure of information and coordination between production and demand.

As a country with agricultural yields, it is highly necessary that we bank on the strengths of our existing industries. It is also shown during times of emergency and crisis that there exists a gap in the information system involving our farming sectors. This pattern has repeated with striking regularity in recent years. In Benguet, in one instance, the country's so-called "Salad Bowl" that supplies nearly 80% of the upland vegetables sold in Metro Manila, cabbage farmers have seen farmgate prices collapse to as low as P4 to P10 per kilo, forcing many to either sell at a loss or abandon their harvest altogether, even as prices in the end-market remain multiple times higher.¹

Likewise, in Nueva Ecija and Rizal provinces, tomato farmers faced a similar collapse in early 2025, with farmgate prices falling to P4 to P5 per kilo, prompting Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan to launch multiple initiatives, such as "Operation Sagip-Kamatis-an" to rescue the unsold produce and calling on local government units to procure the excess for feeding programs.² As one farmer-

¹ Carby Rose Basina, "Benguet farmers struggle with low vegetable prices, oppose planned carrot imports," GMA News Online, 25 May 2026, available at: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/988714/benguet-farmers-struggle-with-low-vegetable-prices-oppose-planned-carrot-imports/story/>

² Clarizel Joy Jamille Gomez, "Tomato Price Volatility in Luzon: Challenges for Farmers, Consumers, and the Need for Market Stability," DOST-PCAARRD's ISP-IS, 4 April 2025, available at:

advocate group put it plainly: “There is actually market demand. It’s just not reaching it. So, it looks like overproduction.”³

The government has not been without initiatives to address this gap. The Department of Agriculture (DA) currently maintains several digital platforms, among them the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), the e-Kadiwa e-commerce platform, and the Bantay-Presyo price-monitoring application. These are valuable, but largely function as centralized, top-down tools; none of them is mandated to operate as real-time, two-way local matching system at the city, municipal, and barangay level where oversupply and undersupply typically originate, and where the earliest, most actionable information exists. The gap that this bill seeks to address is precisely that last-mile layer, the absence of a legally mandated, LGU-anchored information system that captures hyperlocal production data as it is harvested, and connects, in real time, to buyers and to the national platforms/registries that already exist.

It was recently shown that a lot of farming communities are forced to throw away their crops due to the supposed oversupply. However, upon careful investigation, it shows that there exists demand in several areas in the country which are not taken account of because of this information gap. Such gaps have become more urgent to close now that the National Government has significantly scaled up its investment in agricultural infrastructure.

For example, the 2026 National Budget substantially increased funding for farm-to-market roads, precisely to move produce out of the farms and into markets faster. Roads without a matching information system to tell farmers where the demand is, and buyers where the supply is, will only get produce to market faster without ensuring that it goes to where it is needed.⁴ Physical infrastructure and information infrastructure must be developed together.

It is for these reasons that this bill seeks to reestablish, in an updated and strengthened form, the Agriculture Information System, built to interoperate with existing national platforms rather than duplicate them, while accessible to farmers who lack reliable internet access through SMS and community kiosks and not just a web application, and backed by a funding mechanism that does not leave under-resources municipalities, communities, and farmer groups to shoulder an unfunded mandate alone.

Hence, it is for these reasons that this bill is earnestly sought.

<https://ispweb.pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph/tomato-price-volatility-in-luzon-challenges-for-farmers-consumers-and-the-need-for-market-stability/>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Audrey De Jesus, “Harvesting pork, not rural development: The 2026 agriculture budget examined,” Ibon Foundation, 18 January 2026, available at: <https://www.ibon.org/tl/pork-not-rural-devt-2026-agri-budget/>



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM IN ALL
CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

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 “Agriculture Information System Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to uplift the socio-economic conditions of farmers and farming communities nationwide in order to promote their welfare and empower their sector in the overall development and progress of the country. Pursuant to this, an integrated, computerized, web-based agricultural commodities supply inventory and registry system linking farmers and organized communities all over the country needs to be established to provide an easy-to-access local and global real time information for agricultural commodities, with an end view of creating a wider range of market linkages among farmers and agricultural buyers. Furthermore, through a synchronized agriculture information system, the National Government should have access to real-time agricultural information which can rationalize the objectives and policy directives in the agricultural sector.

SECTION 3. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) **Agriculture information system** refers to the integrated, computerized database and multi-channel platform established under this Act for the collection, consolidation, and dissemination of agricultural production, demand, and market information;
- (b) **Interoperability** refers to the capacity of the Information System to exchange and make use of data with other government agricultural

- databases, including but not limited to the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), the e-Kadiwa platform, the Bantay-Presyo price-monitoring application, and the Commodity Trade Volume Watch System of the Department of Agriculture, and the relevant databases of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);
- (c) **Farmer** refers to a natural person, whether individually or as a member of a cooperative, association, or organized farming group, who is directly engaged in the cultivation of agricultural land, the raising of livestock or poultry, or aquaculture;
 - (d) **Buyer** refers to any natural or juridical person, including traders, consolidators, institutional buyers, retailers, exporters, and government agencies, seeking to purchase agricultural commodities registered in the Information System;
 - (e) **Oversupply or undersupply alert** refers to an automated notification generated by the Information System when production data for a given commodity, in a given locality and timeframe, substantially exceeds or falls short of corresponding demand data; and
 - (f) **Last-Mile Farmer** refers to a farmer located in a geographically isolated, disadvantaged, or low-connectivity area, for whom access to the Information System must be facilitated through non-internet-dependent channels.

SECTION 4. Objectives. – This Act aims to attain the following objectives:

- a) Provide an up-to-date database of agricultural products in the locality;
- b) Facilitate linkages from farm-to-market among local government units;
- c) Provide data specific commodities readily available in the particular locality for stakeholders;
- d) Detect and provide early warning of impending oversupply or undersupply of specific commodities to allow timely intervention by local and national government;
- e) Secure for farmers additional and more stable sources of income by reducing reliance on unplanned distress sales;
- f) Encourage the farmers to engage in synchronized agricultural mass production to meet the voluminous demands of the market;
- g) Provide multi-channel access to the Information System, including a web application, a mobile application, SMS or text-based services, and community-based kiosks or help desks, to ensure last-mile farmers are not excluded for lack of internet access or digital literacy;
- h) Streamline training and seminars in the management of the operations;
- i) Monitor the distribution and use of farm inputs provided to farmers;
- j) Facilitate information sharing on commodity flows, specifically, supply and demand;

- k) Protect the personal and livelihood data of farmers and buyers collected through the Information System; and
- l) Ensure that government financial assistance is given only to duly formed cooperatives and farmers groups.

SECTION 5. *Establishment of the Agriculture Information System.* – All cities and municipalities are hereby mandated to establish an Agriculture Information System, hereinafter referred to as Information System, which shall serve as a dynamic online computer database for information on the demand for specific agricultural commodities is gathered simultaneously with the production data from farmers in every barangay. The information system shall merge and synchronize agricultural data from different sources into a cohesive database designed to facilitate linkages from place of origin or the farm to local, and ultimately, global markets, and shall be interoperable with the national databases identified in Section 3(b) of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Features and Contents of the Information System.* – The Information System shall have the following features and contents:

- a) Multi-channel accessibility, consisting at minimum of (i) a web application, (ii) a mobile application optimized for low-bandwidth use, (iii) an SMS or text-based interface for last-mile farmers without internet access, and (iv) a physical help desk or kiosk in every municipal or city agriculture office;
- b) Municipal and city-wide identification of farmers producing specific farm products in small or large quantities;
- c) Crop harvests, volume, and type forecasting;
- d) Inventory of specific classification of crop varieties planted and livestock raised in a particular local government unit;
- e) Farmers' demographics, including age group, gender, and seminars and trainings attended;
- f) Automated generation and dissemination of Oversupply or Undersupply Alerts, as defined in Section 3(e), to the concerned local government unit, the provincial and regional offices of the Department of Agriculture, and registered institutional buyers;
- g) Selected reports presented in both tabular and graphical form accessible through a public dashboard maintained at the city or municipal level;
- h) Registry of farmers' contact details and farm location to facilitate market linkages, collected and maintained in accordance with Section 11 of this Act;
- i) A search function allowing farmers to search for potential buyers and buyers to search for farms, farmers, and available agricultural products; and

- j) A customizable dashboard, accessible only to registered farmer clients, containing the farmer's profile, farm details, land area, and crops planted or livestock raised.

SECTION 7. *Registration.* – All cities and municipalities shall encourage and facilitate the free registration of all farmers and buyers transacting within their respective jurisdictions in the Information System. Registration shall require the informed consent of the farmer or buyer as to the collection, use, and sharing of their personal data consistent with Section 11 of this Act, and shall, to the extent practicable, be cross-referenced with existing records under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) to avoid duplicate data collection.

SECTION 8. *Functions and Responsibilities of Local Government Units.* – The Local Government unit shall exercise the following functions and responsibilities:

- a) Gather, encode, and consolidate the profile and demographics of farmers and buyers as well as other pertinent agricultural data;
- b) Monitor and control farm inputs including machineries and equipment;
- c) Establish and maintain a physical help desk or kiosk, and provide SMS-based access, for last-mile farmers who lack internet access or digital literacy;
- d) Conduct regular digital-literacy training for farmers on the use of the Information System, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);
- e) Prepare and submit real time reports to the provincial office of the Department of Agriculture;
- f) Act on Oversupply or Undersupply Alerts by, among others, coordinating with institutional buyers, feeding programs, and neighboring local government units for the absorption of excess produce; and
- g) Establish farmer and buyer linkages and act as the gatekeeper at the city or municipal level for the nationwide marketing of agricultural products.

SECTION 9. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Provincial Government.* – The provincial government should have the following functions and responsibilities:

- a) The Provincial Planning and Development Office shall act as the web administrator at the provincial level and shall be responsible for

integrating farm locations into the geographic information system maps for agriculture;

- b) The Local Economic and Investment Promotion Office shall act as the lead administrator of the Agriculture Information System at the provincial level and shall serve as market mitigator, coordinating the response to Oversupply or Undersupply Alerts across municipalities and cities within the province; and
- c) The provincial office of the Department of Agriculture shall monitor the submission of reports from local government units, ensuring the completeness, validity, and accuracy of data submitted by the Municipal Agriculture Office.

SECTION 10. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Regional Office of the Department of Agriculture.* – The Regional Office of the Department of Agriculture shall have the following functions and responsibilities.

- a) Collaborate with market linkages from other regions, integrating geographic information system data on project interventions, soil maps, suitability maps, and commodity maps within the region;
- b) Recommend to the central office of the Department of Agriculture appropriate interventions in the form of marketing, importation, and training assistance needed at the provincial level;
- c) Validate data from the provincial offices of the Department of Agriculture, acting as the System Administrator at the regional level and providing real-time reports to the Central Office of the Department of Agriculture; and
- d) Coordinate with the regional office of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to integrate weather and climate advisories into the Information System's production forecasting features.

SECTION 11. *Data Privacy and Security.* – The collection, processing, storage, and sharing of personal data under this Act shall be governed by the following:

- a) All personal data of farmers and buyers collected through the Information System shall be processed in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173, or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” and its implementing rules and regulations;
- b) Each city or municipality shall designate a Data Protection Officer responsible for ensuring compliance with data privacy requirements in the operation of the Information System;
- c) Farmers and buyers shall be informed, in a language or dialect they understand, of the purpose, extent, and recipients of any collection or sharing of their personal data prior to registration;

- d) Personal data shall not be shared with any third party, including private buyers or platforms, without the explicit consent of the farmer or buyer concerned, except as may be required for interoperability with the national databases identified in Section 3(b) of this Act; and
- e) Any breach of data security shall be reported to the National Privacy Commission and to the affected farmers or buyers in accordance with existing law.

SECTION 12. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.* – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall provide technical standards, cybersecurity oversight, and cloud infrastructure support for the Information System, and shall assist the Department of Agriculture in ensuring that the Information System is interoperable with the national government's broader e-Government infrastructure and complies with applicable data security standards.

SECTION 13. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Central Office of the Department of Agriculture.* – The Central Office of the Department of Agriculture shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- (a) Allocate funding for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Information System;
- (b) Approve prioritized interventions recommended by the regional offices and allocate corresponding funding;
- (c) Collaborate with other agencies, including the Philippine Statistics Authority, for the validation of data and the creation of market linkages in the domestic and international markets;
- (d) Ensure the interoperability of the Information System with the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), the e-Kadiwa platform, the Bantay-Presyo application, and the Commodity Trade Volume Watch System, in coordination with the DICT; and
- (e) Provide safety nets in the importation and exportation of agricultural products in order to support farmers.

SECTION 14. *Capacity Building and Digital Literacy Program* – The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with local government units, the DICT, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall develop and implement a continuing digital-literacy program to train farmers, cooperative officers, and local government personnel in the use of the Information System, with particular attention to elderly farmers and Last-Mile Farmers as defined under this Act. Training materials shall be made available in relevant regional languages or dialects.

SECTION 15. *Public-Private Partnerships.* – The Department of Agriculture may enter into data-sharing or interoperability agreements with accredited private e-commerce platforms, logistics providers, agricultural lending institutions, and insurance providers to expand market and financial linkages available to registered farmers through the Information System, subject to the data privacy safeguards under Section 11 of this Act and to guidelines issued by the Department in its implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 16. *Duties of the Secretary of Agriculture.* – The Secretary of Agriculture shall monitor and ensure compliance by all cities and municipalities with this Act and shall, as soon as practicable but not later than one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, establish a centralized agricultural information system that shall integrate and link all city- and municipal-level Information Systems established under this Act with existing national agricultural databases.

SECTION 17. *Reports.* – The Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare and submit to the President and both Houses of Congress an annual report on the program's performance, which shall contain the list of accomplishments, the number of Oversupply or Undersupply Alerts issued and the corresponding interventions undertaken, and recommendations. A summary of the report shall likewise be made available to the public through a dashboard maintained on the Department of Agriculture's official website.

SECTION 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture in coordination with the DICT and the National Privacy Commission, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 19. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary for the development, establishment, and nationwide rollout of the Information System, including its interoperability infrastructure, shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Information System at the city or municipal level shall be included in the annual appropriations of the concerned local government unit, which may be sourced from its Internal Revenue Allotment or other local funds allocated for agricultural development, supplemented as needed by the Department of Agriculture. Such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the Information System shall thereafter be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 20. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction, and other presidential issuances that are

incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended or repealed.

SECTION 21. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 22. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,