

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 13 AIO :14

SENATE
S. No. 466

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

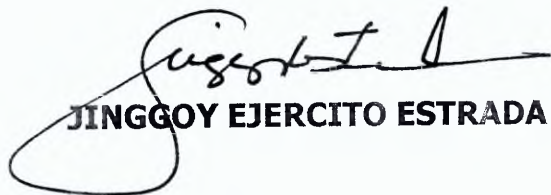
The Philippines is a primarily an agricultural country. The implementation of projects and programs for the promotion and development of this industry should always be based on reliable statistics to make them appropriate, responsive and inclusive.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), which used to be under the Department of Agriculture handling agricultural and fishery statistics, was abolished by virtue of Republic Act No. 10625, otherwise known as the "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013". The personnel and functions of BAS, together with other major statistical agencies, constituted the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) which now serves as the central statistical authority of the Philippine government on primary data collection.

Among the functions of the PSA is to "coordinate with government departments and local government units (LGUs) on the promotion and adoption of statistical standards involving techniques, methodologies, concepts, definitions and classifications, and on the avoidance of duplication in the collection of statistical information."

The *"Agriculture Information System Act"* aims to establish an integrated, computerized, and web-based agricultural commodity supply inventory and registry system which will provide the national government access to real-time agricultural information which are useful in rationalizing the objectives and policy directives in the agricultural sector. This measure links the data from cities and municipalities to the PSA. Such mechanism will enhance the data gathering and monitoring of data in the local and national levels.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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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 "*Agriculture Information*
2 *System Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to uplift the
4 socioeconomic conditions of farmers and farming communities nationwide in order to
5 promote their welfare and empower their sector in the overall development and
6 progress of the country. Pursuant to this, an integrated, computerized, web-based
7 agricultural commodity supply inventory and registry system linking farmers and
8 organized communities all over the country needs to be established to provide an
9 easy-to-access local and global real time information for agricultural commodities, with
10 an end view of creating a wider range of market linkages among other farmers and
11 agricultural buyers. Furthermore, through synchronized agriculture information
12 system, the National Government shall have access to real-time agricultural
13 information which can rationalize the objectives and policy directives in the agricultural
14 sector.

15 Sec. 3. *Objectives.* - This Act aims to attain the following objectives:

- 16 a) Provide an up-to-date database of agricultural and fisheries products in a
17 locality;

- 1 b) Foster information sharing between farmers and potential buyers of
- 2 agricultural and fisheries products;
- 3 c) Secure a market for agricultural and fisheries products and ensure
- 4 appropriate return of investment for farmers and fisheries stakeholders;
- 5 d) Allow local government units to manage a secure and independent platform
- 6 that creates linkages for farmers and fisheries stakeholders;
- 7 e) Provide data on specific commodities that are readily available in a particular
- 8 locality for purposes of production monitoring in order to meet the demands
- 9 of the market;
- 10 f) Provide a secure, transparent and independent modern web application that
- 11 may be accessed anytime by the public through a multi-platform support or
- 12 cross-platform support devices which can be linked to existing systems in
- 13 the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- 14 g) Streamline training and seminars in the management of the operations;
- 15 h) Monitor the use of inputs given by producers, buyers and other segments
- 16 the value-chain including information during post-harvest and processing;
- 17 and
- 18 i) Ensure that all forms of assistance given to local government units (LGUs),
- 19 registered cooperatives and other qualified individuals and organizations are
- 20 monitored.

21 *Sec. 4. Agriculture Information System.* – All cities and municipalities are hereby
22 mandated to establish an Agriculture Information System (AIS), hereinafter referred
23 to as Information System. The AIS shall serve as a dynamic online computer database
24 where information on the demand for specific agricultural and fisheries commodities
25 is gathered and uploaded simultaneously with the production data from farmers in
26 every barangay. The AIS shall merge and synchronize agricultural data from different
27 sources into a cohesive database designed to facilitate linkages from place of origin
28 or the farm to local, and ultimately, global markets. The AIS shall also be integrated
29 with the existing systems of the PSA.

30 The Information System shall have the following features and contents:

- 1 a) Municipal and city-wide identification of individual farmers, fish breeders,
2 and fisherfolk as well as qualified organizations which produce specific farm
3 and fisheries products, regardless of quantity;
- 4 b) Crop harvest, volume and type forecasting;
- 5 c) Inventory of specific classification of crop varieties planted, livestock and
6 type of fish raised in a particular LGU;
- 7 d) Farmers and fisherfolk demographics, including age group, gender, ethnic
8 group, income, seminars and trainings attended, and assistance received;
- 9 e) Selected reports presented in both tabular and graphical form;
- 10 f) Registry of farmers' contact details and farm location to facilitate market
11 linkages;
- 12 g) Search engine which allows farmers, fish breeders, and fisherfolk to look for
13 potential and actual buyers and for such buyers to search for farms,
14 farmers, and available agricultural and fisheries products; and
- 15 h) Customizable dashboard which is accessible only to registered farmers and
16 fisherfolk clients and contains the farmers' and fisherfolk's profile such as
17 the area of the farm or fishpond, crops planted, livestock and type of fish
18 raised.

19 **Sec. 5. *Registration.*** – All cities and municipalities shall encourage and facilitate
20 the free registration of all farmers, fisherfolk, as well as buyers transacting within their
21 respective areas in the Information System.

22 **Sec. 6. *Functions and Responsibilities of Cities and Municipalities.*** – The LGU
23 shall exercise the following functions and responsibilities:

- 24 a) The Municipal Agriculture Office, in coordination with the Municipal Agrarian
25 Reform Office, shall gather, encode, and consolidate all pertinent data on
26 the profile and demographics of farmers, fisherfolk as well as buyers;
- 27 b) Monitor and control farm inputs including machineries and equipment;
- 28 c) For municipalities and component cities, prepare and submit real-time data
29 under (a) and (b) to the provincial agricultural office and to the Sectoral
30 Statistics Office of the PSA;
- 31 d) For highly urbanized cities, submit real-time data to the Sectoral Statistics
32 Office of the PSA;

- 1 e) Establish farmer and buyer linkages and act as a gatekeeper at the city or
2 municipal level in the nationwide marketing of agricultural products; and
3 f) Serve as the web administrator at the municipal or city level and be
4 responsible for integrating farm and fisheries locations into the geographic
5 integration system map.

6 *Sec. 7. Functions and Responsibilities of the Province.* – The provincial
7 government shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- 8 a) The Provincial Planning and Development Office (PDDO) is the web
9 administrator at the provincial level and is responsible for integrating farm
10 and fisheries data into the geographic integration system maps for
11 agriculture and fisheries;
12 b) The Local Economic and Investment Promotion Office (LEIPO) acts as the
13 lead administrator of the AIS in the provincial level and ensures the balance
14 between supply and demand;
15 c) The Provincial Agricultural Office monitors the submission of reports from
16 municipalities and component cities, and ensures the completeness,
17 accuracy and validity of data submitted by the Municipal Agricultural Offices
18 and the Municipal Agrarian Reform Offices; and
19 d) Except for highly urbanized cities, prepare and submit such data to the
20 Sectoral Statistics Office of the PSA.

21 *Sec. 8. Functions and Responsibilities of the Regional Office of the DA.* – The
22 regional office of the DA shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- 23 a) Integrate the data provided by the provinces in the existing information
24 system of the DA such as the National Farmers and Fisheries Information
25 System (NFFIS) which is a web-based data collection system that serves as
26 a platform for updating the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture
27 (RSBSA);
28 b) Collaborate with the regional offices of the Department of Trade and
29 Industry (DTI) in order to facilitate the availment of the various programs
30 of the DTI as well as strengthen market linkages through such programs;
31 c) Recommend to the central office of the DA appropriate interventions in the
32 form of marketing, importation, and training assistance, as may be needed;

- 1 d) Validate the data from the LGUs acting as the system administrator at the
2 regional level and provide real-time report to the Sectoral Statistics Office
3 of the PSA; and
- 4 e) Endorse for financial assistance the qualified fifth and sixth class
5 municipalities that can be given assistance in establishing and maintaining
6 their respective AIS.

7 *Sec. 9. Functions and Responsibilities of the Central Office of the Philippine*
8 *Statistics Office.* – The PSA shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- 9 a) Allocate funding for the integration of the AIS with existing information
10 systems;
- 11 b) Coordinate with the Department of Information and Communications
12 Technology (DICT) to upgrade, expand, and integrate its information
13 systems;
- 14 c) Ensure that the implementation, appropriate verification processes and
15 information safeguards are in place pursuant to existing laws and
16 regulations, in coordination with the DICT, National Privacy Commission
17 (NPC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the
18 Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and,
- 19 d) Approve the prioritized interventions by the regional offices and allocate
20 corresponding funding.

21 *Sec. 10. Duties of the National Statistician.* – The National Statistician shall
22 monitor and ensure the compliance of all cities and municipalities as provided for
23 under this Act and shall, as soon as practicable, establish a centralized AIS that shall
24 integrate and link all existing information systems in the country.

25 *Sec. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after
26 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary
27 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

28 *Sec. 12. Appropriations.* – The National Statistician shall include in the PSA's
29 programs the establishment of the integrated and centralized AIS, the funding of
30 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs shall
31 provide the necessary funds for the establishment of an AIS in their respective annual
32 budgets.

1 Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
3 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

4 Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
6 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
7 accordingly.

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

Approved,