

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4221**



Introduced by REP. Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

By 2030, the population is expected to consume about 18 million metric tons of rice or 26.61 million metric tons of *palay* according to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS). In 2006 (BAS), annual rice production deficit stands at 3.84 million metric tons.

Losses and wastage estimated at 18.47% will have been reduced through more efficient tillage; increased cropping intensity by 3 cropping cycles a year; increased efficiency of farm inputs application; and, more precise planting density that increases productivity per area planting of rice (*palay*).

This legislation proposes to meet the basic challenges to the country's agricultural sector:

- To meet the growing demand for food, agricultural production must therefore increase significantly in the face of less labor, less land, and less water along with greater concern for climate change.
- Farmers agricultural products must meet quality standards and reduced cost of production to compete in global free trade, now that

quantitative restrictions in rice have been technically lifted by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

- Enhancement in agricultural mechanization have not been exploited to the optimum as most farmers are still using inefficient manual tools which translate to low productivity and high wastage.
- This House Bill is supportive of the Food Staples Sufficiency Roadmap for 2016 to 2021, with it proposes improvements in farm mechanization level in rice production and in livestock and fisheries production.
- This House Bill proposes a holistic approach to farm mechanization, integrating local production of farm machineries through increased research and development, agricultural extension work, provision of credit facilities, strengthened public-private participation and regulatory measures in farm equipment production, ensuring adaptability and appropriateness of technologies.
- The utilization of renewable energy in a matter that is linked to this legislation, addresses the need to lower production cost. This Bill supports the integrated system of biomass and waste utilization and researches towards developing energy from agricultural waste itself.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING FARM MECHANIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE
COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy – it shall be the policy of the state to:

1. Provide a possible environment to the local manufacturing of engines, machinery and facilities for agricultural and fisheries production, marketing and processing;
2. Promote enhancement and adaption of modern, cost-effective and safe agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment;
3. Enhance farm productivity and efficiency to achieve safety and food security;
4. Establish regulatory activities thru the enhancement of machinery and performance standards, periodic testing and evaluation;

5. Provide registration and accreditation with classification of suppliers and manufacturers to ensure compliance to quality standards of locally and imported manufactured equipments;
6. Establish support services; credit facilities, research and training programs;
7. Rationalize and enhance the implementation, coordination activities and mechanism on agricultural and fishery programs.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms

1. DTI – Department of Trade and Industry
2. DOLE – Department of Labor and Employment
3. DOST - Department of Science and Technology
4. TESDA – Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
5. BOAE – Board of Agricultural Engineering of the PRC
6. AMTEC – Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center

SECTION 3. Coverage – the provisions of this act shall apply to promotion, distribution, research, development and training, manufacturing, regulation and maintenance of agricultural and fishery equipment.

SECTION 4. Human Resources Development

1. Promote local manufacturing of agricultural engines and equipments;
2. Development of technical standards and testing procedures;
3. Development of post-production mechanization systems;
4. Utilization of renewable resources;
5. Commercialization and testing of specific locations;
6. Promote land consolidation and machinery pooling.

SECTION 5. Research and Training

1. Fabrication of agricultural machinery;
2. Establishment of agricultural and industrial extension activities;
3. Create commercialization techniques representing demand and supply co-relation technologies;
4. Training all personnel engaged in agricultural and fisheries machinery.

SECTION 6. Rules and Regulations - The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. In coordination with the DTI, DOST, BOAE, DOLE, TESDA and AMTEC.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect (15) days upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,