

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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S E N A T E

S. No. 258

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**Introduced by Senator Osmeña III**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is an agricultural country with a land area of 30 million hectares, 47% of which is agricultural land. Philippine agriculture, including forestry and fishery, plays a dominant role in the Philippine economy, contributing about twenty percent (20%) of gross domestic product and providing a source of income and employment.

The country's population is predominantly rural (70 percent of the total) and two-thirds of this population depends on farming for their livelihood. In terms of employment, about one-half of the labor force is engaged in agricultural activities.

This bill seeks to establish a countrywide agricultural technology sharing program to be known as "BAHAGNAN NG KAUNLARAN SA MGA PAMAYANAN", to be jointly implemented by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The program shall encourage and promote agricultural technology transfer between and among the different provinces, cities, and municipalities throughout the country in order that the innovative techniques and experiences in agriculture, fishery and livestock production developed and successfully implemented in certain localities can be shared with other areas in the country. The objectives of the program are to increase the incomes of farmers, fishermen, and other agricultural workers, improve their living conditions, and maximize their contributions to the national economy.

Among the program's components are the conduct of research studies on technologies that will improve and develop agricultural crops and other commodities as well as the promotion of the development of indigenous techniques and its adaptation in farming and livestock production.

To finance the program, the initial sum of Fifteen Million Pesos (P15,000,000.00) is allocated, to be charged equally against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology and the Contingent Fund, as provided in the General Appropriations Act of 2004. Thereafter, any amount necessary for the continued operation of the program shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Agriculture under the General Appropriations Act.

The implementation of this program is envisioned to help provinces, cities, and municipalities attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and thus contribute to the sustained expansion of the national economy.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

*S. Osmeña III*  
**SERGIO OSMEÑA III**  
Senator

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AN ACT  
TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY SHARING AMONG  
PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY  
TO ATTAIN THEIR FULLEST DEVELOPMENT AS SELF-RELIANT  
COMMUNITIES APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

1           SECTION 1. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is declared policy of the State to  
2 promote agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public  
3 investments and support services needed to enhance the well-being of farmers,  
4 fisherfolk, livestock producers and other agricultural workers in order to increase  
5 their income, improve their living conditions and maximize their contributions to  
6 the national economy.

7           SEC. 2. **Technology Sharing Program.** To carry out the above policy,  
8 there is hereby established a countrywide agricultural technology sharing  
9 program to be known as “BAHAGNAN NG KAUNLARAN SA MGA  
10 PAMAYANAN” hereinafter referred to as the “Program”

11           The Program shall encourage and promote agricultural technology  
12 transfer between and among the different provinces, cities, and municipalities  
13 throughout the country in order that the innovative techniques and experiences in  
14 agriculture, fishery and livestock production developed and successfully

1 implemented in specific localities, can be shared with other areas in the country  
2 in the depressed localities.

3 SEC. 3. **Implementing Agencies-** The Program shall be jointly  
4 implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Science  
5 and Technology (DOST), and the Department of Interior and Local Government  
6 (DILG)

7 SEC. 4. **Program Components; Responsibilities of Agencies.** – The  
8 Department of Agriculture (DA) as lead agency shall, with the active collaboration  
9 of the DOST and the DILG, discharge the following functions and responsibilities.

10 (a) Conduct coordinate and disseminate research studies on appropriate  
11 technologies for the improvement and development of agricultural crops,  
12 fisheries, livestock, and other allied commodities by optimizing the use of  
13 resources;

14 (b) Promote the development of indigenous techniques and adaptation in  
15 farming and livestock production;

16 (c) Provide extension services and assistance in agricultural development  
17 as may be needed by local government units; and

18 (d) Conduct nationwide survey of farming, fishery and livestock  
19 technologies successfully developed and utilised in specific localities and provide  
20 the necessary funding and services in order that such technologies to the extent  
21 applicable and appropriate, are shared with, and transferred to, other areas in the  
22 country in order to raise the income of the workers in the latter areas and thus  
23 improve national economy.

24 SEC.5. **Implementation Rules and Regulations** – The rules and  
25 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be  
26 promulgated by the agencies mentioned in Section 3 hereof within thirty (30)  
27 days from effectively of the Act.

28 SEC. 6 **Appropriations.-** To finance the initial implementation of the  
29 Program, the sum of Fifteen Million Pesos (P15,000,000.00) is hereby allocated

1 to be charged equally against the current appropriations of the Department of  
2 Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the  
3 Contingent Fund, as provided in the General Appropriations Act of 1998.  
4 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operation of the  
5 Program established under this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the  
6 Department of Agriculture under the General Appropriations Act.

7       SEC. 7. **Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
8 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
9 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10       SEC. 8 **Effectivity**- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general  
12 circulation.

Approved,