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SENATE

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S. No. 3119



Introduced by Senator **JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine agriculture and fisheries sector has huge labor and livelihood generating potentials, especially in the areas of agricultural and fisheries products and by-products processing, expansion of areas for cultivation, and intensification and diversification of agricultural and fishery production systems. To fully harness these, appropriate and efficient agricultural and fisheries machinery for the on-farm and off-farm operations covering all types of crops, livestock and fisheries are needed.

Unfortunately, the present level of agricultural and fisheries mechanization in the Philippines is quite dismal when benchmarked with its Asian neighbors such as Korea. This country's low level of mechanization is highly attributed to the various technical and socio-economic constraints such as lack of investment in research and development, inadequate training and extension, poor manufacturing technology, lack of credit and low farming income. Other problems include the inadequacy of after sales service, supply of substandard agricultural and fishery machinery particularly in the government procurement program and the sporadic, fragmented and disorganized implementation of agricultural and fishery mechanization. To rectify this, the Bill seeks to establish a system of accreditation and classification of agricultural and fishery machinery suppliers and manufacturers, state of the art testing and evaluation, continued standards development and enforcement and responsive and adequate support services.

Moreover, to ensure rational planning, distribution and investment of agricultural and fishery machinery, there is also a need for an updated and reliable database and information system. The development and implementation of a nationwide registration system on agricultural and fishery machinery is a possible solution to this concern.

In view of the foregoing, a law must be passed to consolidate, integrate and strengthen all existing policies and programs in order to realize the country's efforts towards agriculture and fisheries mechanization. Because of the paramount significance of this Bill, I urge my colleagues to support its approval.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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**AN ACT
PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES
MECHANIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Title-*** This Act shall be known as the "*Agricultural and Fisheries*
2 *Mechanization (AFMech) Law.*"
3

4 **ARTICLE I**
5

6 **DECLARATION OF POLICY,
7 DEFINITION OF TERMS AND COVERAGE**
8

9 **Section 2. *Declaration of Policy*** - It shall be the policy of the State to :

- 10 a) Promote the development and adoption of modern, appropriate and cost-
11 effective and environmentally safe agricultural and fisheries machinery and
12 equipment in support of land consolidation and machinery pooling;
13 b) Encourage local manufacturing of engines, machinery and equipment for
14 agricultural and fisheries production, processing and marketing;
15 c) Develop and enforce machine and machine performance standards, regular
16 testing and evaluation, registration and the accreditation and classification of
17 suppliers and manufacturers to ensure compliance to prescribed quality
18 standards of locally manufactured and imported agricultural and fisheries
19 machinery and equipment;
20 d) Make available support services like credit facilities, research, training and
21 extension programs, rural infrastructures and marketing services to agricultural
22 and fish workers;
23 e) Unify, rationalize and strengthen the implementation, coordination activities and
24 mechanisms on agricultural and fishery mechanization programs and projects ;
25 and

- 1 f) Deliver integrated support services to farmers, fishermen and other stakeholders,
2 and assist them to be able to viably operate and manage their agricultural and
3 fisheries machinery projects.
4

5 **Section 3. Definition of Terms :**

6 **a. Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery and Equipment** - refers to machinery and
7 equipment for the production, harvesting, processing, storage, manufacture,
8 preserving, transporting and distribution of agricultural and fishery products. It
9 includes but is not limited to tractor and their attachments, power tillers, seeders,
10 transplanters, windmill, slaughtering equipment, harvesting machines, crop
11 protection and maintenance equipment, irrigation equipment and accessories,
12 greenhouses and other thermal conditioning equipment, livestock equipment,
13 fishery equipment, slaughtering equipment, meat/fishery and crop processing
14 equipment, post harvest machines such as milling machines, dryer, threshers,
15 strippers, agricultural transport machinery and storage facilities including cold
16 storage, reefer vans, slaughter houses and fishing vessels.

17 **b. Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization** - is the development, adoption,
18 manufacture and application of appropriate, location-specific and cost-effective
19 agricultural and fishery technology using human, animal, mechanical, electrical
20 and other non-conventional sources of energy for agricultural production and
21 postharvest/post production operations consistent with agronomic conditions and
22 for efficient and economic farm and fishery management towards modernization
23 of agriculture and fisheries.

24 **c. Agro-Industrial Processing** - shall include local activity or series of activities to
25 maintain or raise the quality or change the form or characteristics of agricultural,
26 fishery and forestry products. It also includes cleaning, sorting, grading, mixing,
27 milling, canning, dressing, slaughtering, freezing, pasteurizing, conditioning,
28 packaging, repacking and transporting.

29 **d. Department** – refers to the Department of Agriculture;

30 **e. Secretary**- refers to the Secretary of Agriculture

31 **f. BOAE**- Board of Agricultural Engineering of the Professional Regulation Commission

32 **g. DOLE**- Department of Labor and Employment

33 **h. DOST**-Department of Science and Technology

34 **i. DTI**- Department of Trade and Industry

35 **j. TESDA**- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

36 **k. CHED**- Commission on Higher Education

37 **l. AMTEC**- Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center, University of the
38 Philippines, Los Banos

39
40 **Section 4. Scope and Application** - The provisions of this Act shall apply to the
41 research, development and extension, promotion, distribution, supply and manufacturing,

1 regulation, use, operation and maintenance of agricultural and fisheries machinery and
2 equipment.

3
4 **ARTICLE II**
5 **RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
6

7 **Section 5. *Unified National R & D and Extension Agenda***

8 **a)** A unified National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization R & D and Extension
9 (RDE) Agenda shall be formulated and implemented by the Department and shall integrate all
10 agricultural and fisheries mechanization R & D and extension programs and projects of all
11 concerned national government agencies, local government units, state colleges and
12 universities, shall be geared towards job generation, address market and industry demands
13 and help accelerate agricultural and fisheries modernization in the countryside.

14 **b)** The National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization RDE Agenda shall include but
15 shall not be limited to the following:

- 16 1) Development, pilot testing and commercialization of appropriate, location specific
17 *and cost-effective agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment in support to*
18 *land consolidation and machinery pooling;*
- 19 2) Local manufacture of agricultural engines and equipment;
- 20 3) Development and utilization of renewable energy resources such as bio-fuels;
- 21 4) Development of efficient production and postproduction mechanization systems; and
- 22 5) Development of technical standards and testing procedures for quality agricultural
23 machinery and components;
- 24 6) Training of farmers, fishermen, manufacturers, extension workers, agricultural
25 engineers, technicians and operators engaged in the agricultural and fisheries
26 machinery;
- 27 7) Promotion of technologies through agricultural and industrial extension activities and
28 techno-demo centers;
- 29 8) Development of prototype and fabrication of agricultural machinery and equipment;
30 and
- 31 9) Development and conduct of commercialization strategies involving all sectors
32 representing the demand and supply sides of agricultural and fisheries
33 mechanization technologies.

34
35 **Section 6. *Agri-Fisheries Mechanization RDE Network*** – An Agricultural and
36 Fisheries Mechanization Research, Development and Extension (RDE) network is hereby
37 organized, composed of research and education institutions, Local Government Units, non-
38 government agencies and the recognized associations of agricultural and fishery machinery
39 manufacturers and distributors, agricultural engineers and farmers and fishermen organizations.

40
41 **Section 7. *Agri-Fisheries Machinery and Equipment Pools and Service Centers***

42 - The Department of Agriculture and the Local Government Units in partnership with the private

1 sector shall establish Agricultural and Fishery Machinery Pools and Service Centers Strategic
2 Agricultural and Fishery Development Zones (SAFDZs), at least one in each municipality and/or
3 barangay if applicable and feasible so as to accelerate agricultural and fishery modernization in
4 the countryside; *Provided further* that these shall form part of the major basic services of the
5 Local Government Units in the barangays, municipal/city and provincial levels, in addition to the
6 basic services mandated under the Local Government Code.

7
8 **Section 8. *Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery Information Network*** – The
9 Agricultural Machinery Information Network (AgMachIN) of the Department and the DOST shall
10 be strengthened to serve as a network of information system and data bank on agricultural and
11 *fisheries machinery and equipment*, and a facility for the on-line registration of agricultural and
12 fishery machinery.

13
14 **Section 9. *Skills Certification of Agricultural Machinery Technicians and***
15 ***Operators***- The TESDA in collaboration with the Department, BOAE, NAMDAC and the
16 national associations of agricultural engineers and agricultural machinery manufacturers and
17 distributors shall undertake skills certification and accreditation systems for agricultural and
18 fishery machinery operators and technicians.

19
20 **Section 10. *Research Grants***- To enhance research and technological development on
21 agricultural and fishery mechanization, the government through the Department, DOST and
22 CHED shall provide research grants to strategic research institutions including concerned State
23 Colleges and Universities to undertake needs oriented research as well as institutional
24 development and upgrading of laboratory facilities and equipment.

25
26 **Section 11. *Training and Scholarship Program***. – The Department in partnership with
27 the State Colleges and Universities and the private sector shall train the agricultural extension
28 workers of the Local Government Units who in turn shall train the farmers and fishermen on
29 agricultural and fishery mechanization technologies and practices. The DOLE and TESDA shall
30 be responsible in the training of agricultural and fishery machinery technicians and operators.
31 Scholarships for graduate and undergraduate degree on agricultural engineering and
32 trade/vocational courses on agricultural and fishery mechanization shall be given priority by the
33 Department, CHED and DOST.

34
35 **Section 12. *Manpower Complement***. – All agricultural and fishery machinery pools,
36 and service centers including sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments
37 either public or private shall have the required manpower complement of agricultural engineers
38 and skilled technicians and operators in accordance with the guidelines and standards to be
39 adopted and promulgated by the BOAE and DOLE to ensure efficient operation and
40 maintenance and good management practices.

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**ARTICLE III
LOCAL MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY AND AFTER SALES SERVICE**

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Section 13. *Local Manufacturing* - Production of locally made engines and other machinery for agricultural and fisheries purposes shall be promoted and encouraged by the Department in partnership with Metal Working Industry Association of the Philippines (MIAP) and through joint venture agreement. For this purpose, the Department in partnership with the recognized national organization of agricultural machinery manufacturers and distributors, agricultural engineers and the Department of Science and Technology shall undertake the feasibility study and R & D for the local manufacture of agricultural engines/prime mover, and other agricultural machinery and equipment.

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Section 14. *Exemption from Import Duties*- To support the local agricultural manufacturing industry, the latter is hereby exempted from the payment of import duties arising from importation of raw materials and components, engine and mechanical parts required for their manufacture and fabrication of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment.

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Section 15. *Classification and Accreditation of Manufacturers, Importers, Suppliers, Distributors and Dealers* - Agricultural and fisheries manufacturers, importers and suppliers, distributors and dealers shall be classified into small, medium and large, and shall be encouraged to have their manufacturing/service facility build-up; Provided that agricultural and fisheries machinery manufacturers, importers, suppliers, distributors and dealers shall be classified and accredited based on their organizational strengths and track records, area of operation, marketing and distribution network, after sales service and manufacturing capabilities;

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Section 16. *Supply of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery in Government Procurement Program* - Only manufacturers, importers, suppliers, distributors and dealers accredited by NAMDAC shall be eligible to supply government procurement requirements on agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment based on their classification rating;

Section 17. *After-Sales Service* - All agricultural and fisheries machinery manufacturers, importers, suppliers, distributors and dealers are required to provide after-sales service and warranty to their respective clients including insurance coverage for “wear and tear” during the warranty period which shall be monitored by the DA and NAMDAC.

**ARTICLE IV
REGISTRATION, LICENSING AND STANDARDIZATION**

Section 18. *Testing and Evaluation* - Agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment to be sold in the market shall pass through testing, and evaluation by the AMTEC in accordance with the national policies and guidelines to be promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture. Specifically, before it can be commercially sold, a model of the machine and any modification thereof should be tested by AMTEC and should pass prescribed quality and

1 performance standards before it is manufactured and sold in the market. The regular testing
2 and evaluation of machinery sold shall be undertaken every five years by AMTEC.

3
4 **Section 19. Registration of Agricultural and Fishery Machinery -**

- 5 a) All agricultural and fisheries machinery shall be registered in all Municipal and City Local
6 Government Units through the Agricultural Engineering Groups.
- 7 b) The registration information shall include the engine serial number, name and address of
8 the owner, technical specifications, date of acquisition and acquisition value of the
9 agricultural and fishery machinery being registered;
- 10 c) The Provincial Agricultural Engineering Groups of the Local Government Units shall
11 establish and maintain a provincial data on all agricultural and fishery machinery being
12 registered, with the DA Regional Agricultural Engineering Division being responsible for
13 the regional data and the PhMech for the national data using the facilities of the
14 AgMachIN.
- 15 d) The Department in consultation with the private sector and LGUs shall promulgate
16 national guidelines and procedures in the registration of agricultural and fishery
17 machinery by the LGUs including the collection of registration fees. The amount
18 collected should be utilized to fund the operation of the agricultural and fishery
19 mechanization service centers.

20
21 **Section 20. Standards Development and Enforcement -** The Department in
22 coordination with the DTI, DOST, BOAE and AMTEC and in consultation with the accredited
23 associations of farmers and fishermen, agricultural machinery manufacturers and distributors
24 and agricultural engineers shall develop standards specifications and test procedures of
25 agricultural and fishery machinery. These standards should be in conformity with the
26 International Standards Organization (ISO) and be part of the existing Philippine Agricultural
27 Engineering Standards.

28 Thereafter, the Department and LGUs shall enforce the Philippine Agricultural
29 Engineering Standards on the manufacture, sale, distribution and procurement of agriculture
30 and fisheries machinery and equipment, and in its accreditation system, registration and
31 issuance of business licenses for agricultural and fishery facilities and establishments. For this
32 purpose, the Department through CAFEO shall promulgate guidelines and procedures to
33 effectively enforce the standards.

34 Likewise, the Department of Public Works and Highways in coordination with the
35 Department and the BOAE shall enforce the Philippine Agricultural Engineering Standards as
36 part in the implementation of the National Building Code of the Philippines particularly in the
37 design, construction, operation and maintenance of agricultural and fishery buildings and
38 structures.

39 **ARTICLE V**
40 **INSTITUTIONS**

41
42 **Section 21. Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Committee -** The existing
43 Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Committee (AFMeC) under the National Agricultural

1 and Fishery Council (NAFC) is hereby strengthened and reorganized into Agricultural and
2 Fishery Mechanization and Infrastructure Committee (AFMIC) to act as an advisory body to
3 ensure the success of the programs and activities of the DA concerning agricultural
4 mechanization and infrastructure. It is also tasked to serve as the consultative and feedback
5 mechanism from the lowest possible level to the top decision makers and to assist in defining
6 and formulating the goals and scope of the country's agriculture and fishery mechanization
7 policies, plans, and programs. To support its activities, the Agricultural and Fishery
8 Mechanization Staff of NAFC is also hereby strengthened as one of the regular division of
9 NAFC.

10
11 **Section 22. Strengthening the DA Agricultural Engineering Groups** – Pursuant to
12 Section 46 of R.A. No. 8435, a Central Agricultural and Fishery Engineering Office (CAFEO) is
13 hereby created under the Department of Agriculture to be headed by a Department
14 Undersecretary. The CAFEO shall coordinate, oversee, integrate and monitor all agricultural
15 and fishery infrastructure, mechanization and engineering programs and projects of the
16 Department. Likewise, the Regional Agricultural Engineering Divisions (RAEDs) of the
17 Regional Field Units which shall be headed by a Division Chief with a position of Agricultural
18 Engineer V are hereby strengthened and institutionalized to carry out the field implementation of
19 the agricultural and fishery mechanization and infrastructure programs; *Provided, that the*
20 *Department and the Department of Budget and Management shall create the required number*
21 *of Agricultural Engineer positions as technical manpower complement of CAFEO and RAEDs.*

22
23 **Section 23. Institutionalization of the NAMDAC Board** - The National Agricultural
24 and Fisheries Machinery Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors and Dealers Accreditation and
25 Classification (NAMDAC) Board is hereby institutionalized to serve as the sole national
26 accreditation and classifying body on agricultural and fisheries machinery and shall perform the
27 following functions ;

- 28 a) Establishment of an updated and accurate data base on their sector;
29 b) Formulate policies, guidelines and criteria for accreditation and classification on
30 manufacturers of agricultural and fishery machinery;
31 c) Encourage self regulation in the sector by delegating the task of accrediting and classifying
32 manufacturers/dealers/distributors and approval of the quality and safety of their products
33 to their respective associations;
34 d) Advocate policies to regulate the importation and exportation of agricultural and fisheries
35 machinery consistent with the GATT-WTO provision; and
36 e) Make certain that the manufacturers'/dealers' associations conduct regular inspection of
37 agricultural and fisheries machinery fabrication plants to ensure compliance with accepted
38 processes and products.

39
40 **Section 24. Composition of NAMDAC** – NAMDAC shall be organized by the private
41 sector which shall include representatives from the manufacturers, importers, suppliers and
42 distributors of agricultural machinery and equipment. The heads of CAFEO, PhMech, AFMIC

1 and AMTEC shall also be members of NAMDAC. The CAFEO shall serve as the secretariat of
2 NAMDAC. The CAFEO shall provide technical and administrative support to the operations of
3 NAMDAC.

4
5 **Section 25. Role of BPRE-** – The Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension
6 (BPRE) is hereby restructured into Philippine Institute for Postharvest Development and
7 Mechanization (PhMech) to strengthen its existing research, extension and postharvest
8 development services functions on postproduction and mechanization concerns. The BPRE
9 shall coordinate, plan, execute agricultural and fishery mechanization and post harvest
10 programs and projects of the Department.

11
12 **Section 26. Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center -** The existing
13 Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC) is hereby institutionalized as a
14 Center under the College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology (CEAT) of UPLB, and
15 for purposes of functional coordination and integration, shall closely coordinate its activities with
16 CAFEO and PhMech. *Provided*, that the Department shall provide grant-in-aid to UPLB
17 necessary for the operation of AMTEC and the upgrading of its facilities and equipment.

18
19 **ARTICLE VI**
20 **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**
21

22 **Section 27. Implementation by the Local Government Units-** The Local Government
23 Units, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
24 Government Code, shall undertake applied research, extension, dispersal, management and
25 regulation of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment including the collection of fees
26 in accordance with the national policies, procedures, guidelines and rules and regulations as
27 promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

28
29 **Section 28. Institutionalization of the Agricultural and Fishery Engineering**
30 **Groups of the Local Government Units. -** The Provincial, City and Municipal Agricultural
31 Engineering Groups/Offices of the Local Government Units organized under Section 46 of R.A.
32 8435, Executive Order No. 86, Series of 1999 are hereby strengthened and institutionalized
33 into the structure of the LGUs, and shall be headed by a Provincial, City and Municipal
34 Agricultural Engineer/s, who must be licensed agricultural engineers to be appointed by the
35 concerned Local Chief Executive.

36 In cases of provincial, city and municipal LGUs which are not capable to establish its
37 Agricultural Engineering Offices due to financial limitations, the Department through the
38 Regional Agricultural Engineering Division shall assume such responsibility, and as deemed
39 necessary establish it provincial, city and municipal operation units, and shall allocate the
40 funding requirement for its operation.

41 *Provided*, that the RAEDs shall exercise technical supervision on the agricultural
42 engineering offices of the Provincial and City Governments and likewise the Provincial

1 Agricultural Engineering Group to the Agricultural Engineering Groups of component cities and
2 municipalities.

3
4 **Section 29. Duties and Functions of the LGU Agricultural Engineering Groups-** The
5 Provincial, City and Municipal Agricultural Engineering Groups shall serve as the coordinating,
6 planning, regulating and implementing body at the provincial, city and municipal levels on
7 agricultural and fishery infrastructure, engineering and mechanization projects. Specifically, it
8 shall :

- 9 1) Provide agricultural engineering services to the Local Government Units concerned
10 which include engineering survey, preparation and evaluation of plans, designs,
11 technical specifications and feasibility studies and management of irrigation, small water
12 impounding projects, farm machinery, slaughterhouses, post harvest facilities and
13 agricultural and fishery infrastructure projects;
- 14 2) Administer, supervise, coordinate and control the construction, maintenance and
15 improvement of irrigation, post harvest facilities, slaughterhouse, farm-to-market roads
16 and other agricultural and fishery infrastructure projects of the LGUs;
- 17 3) Undertake the registration, enforcement of the Philippine Agricultural Engineering
18 Standards and other regulatory activities on agri-fishery machinery and facilities in
19 coordination and collaboration with concerned national government agencies;
- 20 4) Coordinate with concerned national government agencies with regards to the
21 implementation of national government programs and projects on irrigation, farm
22 mechanization, post harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads and agricultural and fishery
23 infrastructure;
- 24 5) Be in the frontline of the delivery of basic agricultural engineering services;
- 25 6) Provide training and extension activities to farmers and fishers particularly in the
26 installation, operation and maintenance of their irrigation, post harvest facilities,
27 agricultural and fishery machinery projects in coordination with the agriculture and
28 fishery extension workers
- 29 7) Undertake and or coordinate the pilot testing and commercialization of matures
30 agricultural and fishery engineering technologies ; and
- 31 8) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as maybe
32 prescribed by law or ordinance.

33
34 **ARTICLE VII**
35 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

36
37 **Section 30. Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Plan-** The Department shall
38 formulate and implement a National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Plan upon
39 approval of this Act.

40 The Local Government Units through an ordinance shall also formulate and implement
41 their respective Provincial, City and Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Mechanization Plans as
42 a vital component of their respective Agricultural and Fishery Modernization Plans.

1 **Section 31. Land Clustering-** The Department together with the Department of
2 Agrarian Reform shall carry out land clustering program in order to effect suitable field shapes
3 and sizes conducive to efficient operation of agricultural machinery and equipment and likewise
4 to ensure its economies of scale.

5 The land clustering projects shall:

- 6 1) promote farm land clustering with a minimum of 50-hectares cluster for synchronized
7 farming operations from land preparation to harvesting in cooperation or contract
8 with agricultural mechanized operation service providers;
- 9 2) undertake farm development planning; and
- 10 3) strengthening of farmers cooperatives and associations.

11
12 **Section 32. Use of Renewable Energy-** The use of renewable energy such as
13 windmills, solar energy, bio-mass and other farm-based energy sources shall be promoted as
14 power sources for the operation and maintenance of agricultural and fishery machinery and
15 equipment for agriculture and fisheries. The Department in collaboration with the Department of
16 Energy, DOST and State Colleges and Universities, and the private sector shall undertake
17 research and extension activities to enhance the use of renewable energy in the Philippine farm
18 operation.

19
20 **Section 33. Infrastructure Support-** The government shall provide priority investment
21 for the infrastructure needs in clustered farm land identified as key agricultural and fishery
22 production areas to accelerate agricultural and fishery mechanization in the countryside and this
23 include irrigation facilities, farm-to-market roads, power and communications facilities.

24
25 **Section 34. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - The Department in
26 consultation with stakeholders shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

27
28 **Section 35. Funding**

29 **a)** The amount necessary to carry out the program shall be incorporated in the
30 General Appropriations Act.

31 **b)** All funds currently allocated for agricultural and fisheries machinery and
32 infrastructure projects under the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Program,
33 in particular, the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) Programs for rice, corn,
34 livestock, HVCC and fisheries, and other locally or foreign assisted projects of the
35 Department of Agriculture, and that of the Agrarian Reform Funds of the Department
36 of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and that of the Department of Science and Technology
37 (DOST) shall be integrated to constitute the initial Agricultural and Fisheries
38 Machinery and Infrastructure Program Fund, and thereafter, shall be incorporated as
39 part of the funding appropriation of the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization
40 Program;

41 **c)** All Local Government Units shall likewise include in their investment plans, as part of
42 the priority appropriations of their 20% Economic Development Fund, the funding

1 support for the implementation of their respective provincial, city, municipal and
2 barangay agricultural and fisheries mechanization and infrastructure programs;

3 **d)** The Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery and Infrastructure Program Fund shall be
4 used for the following activities :

- 5 1) Training of farmers, fisherfolk, farm workers, agricultural and fisheries
6 machinery operators and technicians and program implementers;
- 7 2) Upgrading of agricultural and fishery mechanization facilities and equipment of
8 the Department of Agriculture and Local Government Units;
- 9 3) Investment and Feasibility studies on agricultural and fisheries machinery and
10 infrastructure projects;
- 11 4) Information campaign;
- 12 5) Testing and evaluation of AMTEC ;
- 13 6) Registration of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment and other
14 regulatory activities
- 15 7) Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery Demonstration Centers
- 16 8) R & D on the manufacturing of local engines
- 17 9) Grant for the young entrepreneurs and agricultural engineers who intend to
18 pursue agricultural and fishery machinery enterprises projects; and
- 19 10) Strengthening the DA and LGU's Agricultural Engineering Groups.

20
21 **Section 36. Separability Clause** - The provisions of this Act are hereby declared
22 separable, and if any clause, sentence, provision or section hereof, should be declared invalid,
23 such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this Act which can be given force and
24 effect without the provisions which have been declared invalid.

25
26 **Section 37. Repealing Clause** - All laws, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are
27 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

28
29 **Section 38. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
30 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

31
32 Approved.