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SENATE

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R

V. Villar

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO DEVISE STRATEGIES THAT PROMOTE MODERN FARMING METHODS AND ADOPT NEW APPROACHES, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED "CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE"**

*Whereas*, agriculture is the largest component of GDP in the Philippines at 31.3 percent, yet it is the least productive compared to Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, an average of 20 cyclones a year enter the Philippines, which take a toll on its food production;

*Whereas*, data released in October 2011 by the Department of Agriculture showed yearly crop losses between 2006 and 2011 due to typhoons averaged 618,000 tons;

*Whereas*, the DA added that the six typhoons that ravaged the Philippines from June to October in 2011 destroyed a total of 902,285 metric tons (MT) of unmilled rice;

*Whereas*, the Philippines is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural disasters, recording, on average, more than 1,000 lives lost every year, with typhoons accounting for 74 percent of the fatalities, 62 percent of the total damages, and 70 percent of agricultural damages, reflecting their high annual frequency;<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), damage to agriculture alone averaged Php12.4 billion annually;

*Whereas*, agriculture being highly productive in nature, requires modern machinery (such as tractors and harvesters), infrastructure (like silos), and inputs (like fertilizers);

*Whereas*, an expert of the Food and Agriculture Organization advocates "climate-smart agriculture" to ensure a steady and stable supply of food in the face of changing weather patterns;<sup>3</sup>

*Whereas*, climate-smart agriculture consists of intensifying production systems to achieve productivity increases, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation;

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<sup>1</sup> *Why Philippines agriculture lags behind*, Philippine Daily Inquirer, September 2nd, 2011

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dof.gov.ph/?p=2980>

<sup>3</sup> *Climate-smart farming way to go, says expert*, Philippine Daily Inquirer, February 19th, 2012

*Whereas*, farmers should be taught to adopt to new technologies, practices and techniques that are responsive to the changes in the environment such as planting more resilient food crops and managing soil fertility;<sup>4</sup>

*Whereas*, according to the Center for Research and Epidemiology Disasters (CRED)'s annual statistical review, the Philippines led the list of natural disaster events with 24 followed by China with 16, making the country the hardest hit in terms of calamities that pose a serious threat to life;<sup>5</sup>

*Whereas*, there is need to reform the country's age-old agriculture systems to adapt to climate change: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Philippine government, through the Department of Agriculture, to devise strategies that promote modern farming methods and adopt new approaches, including the so-called "climate-smart agriculture".

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/indepth/2011-10/11/e\\_131184757.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/indepth/2011-10/11/e_131184757.htm)