FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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S E N A T E

P. S. Res. No. **1520**

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF CROP FORECASTING, AGROMETEOROLOGY AND SIMILAR MODERN AGRICULTURAL TOOLS TO ASSIST THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, ENSURE FOOD PRODUCTION AND TO ENABLE THE FARMERS TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Whereas, Section 1 Article XII of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. x x x "

Whereas, Section 5 Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services";

Whereas, the Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention, aiming to formulate policies and implement realistic programs to contribute in the effort to reduce and stabilize the effects of climate change while ensuring that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner;

Whereas, the damage brought about by storms "Ondoy," "Pepeng" and "Santi" on the crops and produce of farmers greatly affected the supply of agricultural products nationwide;

Whereas, an innovative way to avoid the effects brought about by violent weather factors such as the storms that had just passed the country is through Crop Forecasting;

Whereas, "Crop Forecasting" is characterized as follows:

- the art of predicting crop yields (tons/ha) and production before the harvest actually takes place, typically a couple of months in advance;

- involves the creation of a cropping calendar based on rainfall observed in the past to determine when and what crops to plant;

- relies on computer programmes called "models" that describe the plant-environment interactions in quantitative terms, and they attempt to simulate plant-weather-soil interactions;

- relies on studying and researching on the varieties of crops that are tolerant to particular weather conditions in order to ensure a positive yield despite changing weather conditions;

- it is not limited only to weather conditions vis-à-vis agricultural production but also to "chronic" problems, such as local droughts and recurrent pest attacks;

Whereas, "Agrometeorology" is defined as the study and application of relationships between meteorology and agriculture, involving problems such as timing the planting of crops, and examining the effects and impacts of weather and climate on crops, rangeland, livestock, and various agricultural operations;[1]

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the State to ensure that the agricultural sector is protected by initiating innovative ways to promote the sector; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committees on Agriculture and Food to conduct a study, in aid of legislation, on the institutionalization of Crop Forecasting, Agrometeorology and similar modern agricultural tools to assist the agriculture sector, ensure food production and to enable the farmers to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Adopted,

MANNY VILLAR
Senator

[1] www.answers.com/topic/agricultural-meteorology