

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

16 JUL 26 AM 12:42

SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 888

BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

**AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL
EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The growth of the agricultural sector plays a crucial role in the country's socio-economic development. Faced with an alarming poverty incidence, particularly in the rural areas, the government should implement measures to address these concerns particularly of improving infrastructure support facilities, as well as research and development among others.

This bill seeks to strengthen the country's extension system by decentralizing to the appropriate level of the local political unit that is more familiar in their areas of jurisdiction hence effective viable economic unit for agriculture development i.e., provinces. It shall establish a national agency, the Philippine Agriculture & Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA) to orchestrate, provide national directions, set standards of performance, and provide institutionalized financial and technical support to the LGUs.

Moreover, this measure will provide additional support to the extension system, which shall mandate the national government to pay for the salaries and wages of extension personnel under the administrative direction of the provincial government. The salaries and wages of Local Government Unit (LGU) extension personnel shall be standardized to that of equivalent positions in the national government.

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

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



'16 JUL 26 A9:42

SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 888

BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

**AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL
EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**ARTICLE 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1
2
3
4 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Agriculture and*
5 *Fisheries Extension Act.*"

6
7
8 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The goals of the national economy are a
9 more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained
10 increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the
11 benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the
12 quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

13
14 The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on
15 sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that
16 make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are
17 competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. In pursuit of these goals, all
18 sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum
19 opportunity to develop.

20
21 Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enable those who
22 belong to the agriculture and fisheries sector to participate and share in the
23 fruits of development and growth in a manner that utilizes the nation's

1 resources in the most efficient and sustainable way possible by establishing a
2 more equitable access to assets, income, basic and support services and
3 infrastructure.

4
5 The State shall give priority to promote science, technology and human
6 resource development as essentials for national development and progress.

7
8 The State shall utilize research results through information, extension and
9 communication services. It shall support the development of a national
10 extension system that will help accelerate the transformation of agriculture and
11 fisheries sectors of the Country from a resource-based industry to a knowledge
12 and technology-based and market-oriented industry.

13
14 The State shall adopt the market approach in assisting the agriculture and
15 fisheries sector while recognizing the contribution of these sectors to food
16 security, environmental protection, and balanced urban and rural
17 development, without neglecting the welfare of the consumers, especially the
18 lower income groups. The State shall promote market-oriented policies in
19 agricultural production to encourage farmers to shift to more profitable crops.

20
21 The State shall empower the agriculture and fisheries sector to develop
22 and sustain themselves to meet present and future needs of the Country.
23 Toward this end, the State shall ensure the establishment and development of
24 the agriculture and fisheries extension system that increases and sustains its
25 contributions to the achievement of the goals of agriculture modernization as
26 mandated by Republic Act 8435: a) Poverty Alleviation and Social Equity; b)
27 Food Security; c) Rational Use of Resources and Sustainable Development; d)
28 Global Competitiveness; and e) People Empowerment.

29
30
31 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** As used in this Act, the term:

- 32
33
34 1. "Agriculturist" refers to a person who is a graduate of a bachelor's
35 degree in agriculture or any related course registered and licensed with
36 the Professional Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission;
37 who performs communication, curriculum development, econometrics,
38 statistical work, training and extension works in agriculture production,
39 trade, and processing including crop and animal protection, food safety,
40 agricultural and natural resource economics, and marketing;
- 41
42 2. "Agricultural Engineer" refers to a person registered with the
43 Professional Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission
44 performing training and extension work in agricultural and fisheries
45 mechanization, irrigation, drainage, soil and water conservation,
46 agricultural buildings and structures, agricultural processing and post
47 harvest facilities;

- 1 3. "Catalytic Financing" - the provision of financial support to achieve
2 excellence, equity and increased investment by the local governments in
3 the implementation of agriculture and fisheries extension services
4 towards the achievement of national goals;
- 5
6 4. "Civil Society" - refers to the group of organizations whose uncoerced
7 collective action revolves around shared interests, purposes and values.
8 Civil societies are organizations composed of community groups,
9 women's organizations, faith-based organizations, professional
10 associations, trade unions, self-help groups, social movements, business
11 associations, coalitions and advocacy groups;
- 12
13 5. "Consumers" - are those that acquire goods or services for direct use or
14 ownership rather than for resale or use in production and
15 manufacturing;
- 16
17 6. "Empowerment" - is the expansion of assets and capabilities of people
18 to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable
19 institutions that affect their lives; it involves providing authority,
20 responsibility, and information to people directly engaged on
21 agriculture and fishery production, primarily at the level of the farmers,
22 fisherfolk and those engaged in food and non-food production and
23 processing, in order to give them enhanced economics rights;
- 24
25 7. "Fisheries" - refers to all systems or networks of interrelated activities
26 which include the production, growing, harvesting, processing,
27 marketing, developing, conserving and managing of all aquatic and
28 fisheries areas;
- 29
30 8. "Fisheries Technologist" refers to a person who is a graduate of a four
31 year course in Fisheries and registered and licensed with the
32 Professional Regulation Commission or Civil Service Commission
33 performing training and extension on fisheries, marine resources and
34 aquaculture;
- 35
36 9. "Food Security" - refers to the policy objective, plan and strategy of
37 meeting the food requirements of the present and future generations, of
38 Filipinos in substantial quantity, ensuring the availability and
39 affordability of safe and nutritious food to all, either through local
40 production or importation, or both, based on the country's existing and
41 potential resource endowment and related production advantages, and
42 consistent with the overall national development objectives and policies;
- 43
44 10. "Formula grants" - these are national government financial transfers to
45 the local governments to support the regular expenditures in the
46 provision of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services (AFES) based
47 on a formula that takes into consideration, among others, the level of
48 economic development of a municipality or a province;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

- 11. "Gross Value Added in Agriculture" - refers to the total value, excluding the value of non-agricultural or fisheries intermediate inputs, of goods and services contributed by the agricultural and fisheries sectors;
- 12. "Knowledge Management" - is a systematic approach which invents, understands, shares, creates and utilizes knowledge in order to create values such as customer's value, employee's value, stockholder's value, business partner's value and social value to achieve the vision and goal of the organization;
- 13. "Partnership" - a relationship between and among agencies that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility towards the achievement of shared goals;
- 14. "Private sector" - the part of a nation's economy that is not owned and managed by the government;
- 15. "Producer" - one that produces, especially a person or organization, that produces goods or services for sale;
- 16. "RBOs" - are rural based organizations or people's organizations composed of various sectors of the rural community such as farmers, fisherfolk, growers, seed producers, women, and youth;
- 17. "Targeted financial transfer" - is a financial support provided by the national government to the LGUs in support of national goals or programs;
- 18. "Value chain" - is a process from seed to shelf or from the producers to the consumers, showing activities and interventions of/for a chosen commodity/ties based on understanding the needs for such interventions;
- 19. "Veterinarian" refers to a person registered with the Professional Regulation Commission performing professional services related to the practice of veterinary medicine including training and extension on disease prevention control and animal health.

SECTION 4. *Statement of Goals.* - Agricultural extension is a policy instrument for empowering individuals and organizations; public agriculture extension shall contribute towards the achievement of the national goals of agriculture development.

SECTION 5. *Statement of Objectives.* - Agriculture and fisheries extension shall contribute to the following objectives:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

- a) To enhance the economic rights of Producers, especially the poor, to use the most appropriate technologies they feel will give them the best profit and to choose the most affordable loans in producing the quality and quantity of products and to sell their products freely; Traders, to move goods in the expectation of profits unconstrained by serious lack of knowledge and information; and Consumers, to buy safe and nutritious foods at the lowest prices possible.
- b) To manage knowledge in strengthening the individual and organizational capabilities of producers, traders and consumers; and
- c) To help create an enabling environment that strengthens the linkage between knowledge generation and knowledge use and encourages increased investment in agriculture extension by the private sector, civil society, and Local Governments.

SECTION 6. Clients. - The clients of Philippine agricultural and fisheries extension system are the producers (farmers, fisherfolk, agricultural processors), traders, and consumers along the value chain. Public extension shall focus on the delivery of public goods. The priority clients shall be the economically and socially disadvantaged groups in agriculture and fisheries. Local Government Units shall put primary attention to these groups in the provision of extension services through formula grants and targeted and catalytic financing of National Government Agencies.

ARTICLE II
Structure and Organization

SECTION 7. Creation of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA). - The Agricultural Training Institute is hereby strengthened and transformed into the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA). It shall serve as the national apex organization for a unified and efficient agriculture and fisheries extension system of the country. It shall ensure that public extension services meet the national standards of performance and effectively contribute towards the achievement of the national goals of agriculture and fisheries modernization.

The Philippine Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA), shall coordinate all government extension programs in agriculture and fisheries.

SECTION 8. Powers and Functions.

- a) Provide direction in the development of national extension policies in agriculture and fisheries;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

- b) Orchestrate the development of extension strategic plan including its financing in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and other stakeholders;
- c) Develop and implement national policies and programs aimed at the continuous improvement of the quality of extension methods, products, and services towards a more efficient and client-responsive national agriculture and fisheries knowledge management system;
- d) Develop a system towards the management of the country's extension resources for agriculture and fisheries to ensure a sustainable, participatory. And efficient system of funding for information, education, and communication materials (IEC) and to achieve optimal efficiency along the value chain;
- e) Provide leadership in the development and implementation of the National Agriculture & Fisheries Knowledge Network (NAFKN) in agriculture and fisheries of the Department through a system of partnerships that may include, but not be limited to, the (Local Government Units) LGUs, the regional development council (RDC), the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council (RAFCs), the academe especially the SUCs of agriculture and fisheries, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), producers, rural based organizations (RBO)s and the private sector;'
- f) Provide national leadership in consultation with agriculture and fisheries councils (AFCs), in developing extension partnerships towards increased investment and private sector participation;
- g) Team up with state universities and colleges (SUCs) of agriculture and fisheries as key partners in the implementation of the national programs specially in the areas of extension innovations, national training, and monitoring and evaluation of extension institutions and programs;
- h) Provide leadership in developing and implementing a national system of strengthening institutional extension capacities at all levels of implementation; and
- i) In coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM); the Local Government Units, The Department of Local governments, and other stakeholders, the PAFEA shall set up a review mechanism for all agriculture and fisheries extension programs and budgets of national agencies to determine cost effectiveness of operations and potential impacts to national goals.

1 **SECTION 9. Structure of PAFEA.** - It shall be headed by a Director
2 General (DG) with a rank of Assistant Secretary to be assisted by two Deputy
3 Director Generals (DDG) and they shall be appointed by the President upon
4 recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture from a list submitted by an
5 independent Search Committee organized and based on the qualification
6 standards set by the Council for Extension Research Development in
7 Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) . They shall have a fixed tenure of six (6)
8 years and may be re-appointed for an additional term of four (4) years based
9 on very satisfactory performance.

10
11
12 **SECTION 10. The Council for Extension Research Development in**
13 **Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF)** - The Council for Extension Research
14 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF) is hereby strengthened. It
15 shall ensure that the agriculture and fisheries research, development and
16 extension policies and programs of the Department are consistent with national
17 policies and priorities.

18
19
20 a) Functions and duties of the Council for Extension Research
21 Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF).

- 22
23
24 1. Approve policies covering program priorities and
25 resource allocation in research and extension of all
26 agencies of the Department;
- 27
28 2. Enhance coordination and linkage of government
29 institutions involved in agriculture and fisheries
30 research, development and extension;
- 31
32 3. Strengthen the participation of various
33 stakeholders, especially the civil society, local
34 government units, and private sector in the
35 development of National Research Development
36 and Extension (NRDE) agenda and programs;
- 37
38 4. Strengthen the institutional efficiency of the NRDE
39 system, including the setting up of a monitoring
40 and evaluation system on the effectiveness and
41 efficiency of its various components; and
- 42
43 5. Set guidelines in the use of services and facilities,
44 collection of fees and in the utilization of income.
- 45
46

47 **SECTION 11. Composition of the Council for Extension Research**
48 **Development in Agriculture and Fisheries (CERDAF).** The Undersecretary for

1 Policy and Planning of the DA shall be the Chair of the Council. There shall be
2 a Vice Chair to be elected from among the other members of the Board. The
3 Executive Director of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Extension
4 Agency (PAFEA) and the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture Research (BAR)
5 shall be *ex officio* members and the Chair shall appoint the Executive Director of
6 PAFEA as Secretary of the Council. The CERDAF shall have the following as
7 members:

8
9 (1) Designated Undersecretaries for Policy & Planning
10 of the following Departments:

- 11
12 i. Department of Science and Technology;
13
14 ii. Department of Environment and Natural
15 Resources;
16
17 iii. Department of Agrarian Reform;

18
19 (2) Presidents of the following LGU organizations:

- 20
21 i. League of Provinces;
22
23 ii. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP);
24

25
26 (3) Four (4) CSO representatives from the rural youth,
27 rural women, and farmer, and fisherfolk sectors as
28 identified and selected by the Department of
29 Agriculture;

30
31 (4) One (1) private sector representative designated by
32 the Management Association of the Philippines
33 (MAP);

34
35 (5) Representatives from scientific/professional
36 organizations/societies;

37
38 (6) One representative each from the following
39 national professional organizations: i)
40 agriculturists; ii) agricultural engineers; iii) fishery
41 technologists and iv) veterinarians.
42

43
44 **SECTION 12. Offices under the PAFEA.** -To carry out the functions of the
45 Agency, PAFEA shall have four technical offices as follows: (1) Policy
46 Development; (2) Extension Innovations & National Training; (3) Knowledge
47 Products & Services Development; and (4) Extension Governance &
48 Partnerships.

1
2 The PAFEA shall maintain a small regional office to: (1) liaise with the
3 Department Regional Field Units (RFUs) that should serve as the principal arm
4 of the Department to implement extension policies and programs in the regions
5 (2) provide regional technical assistance in the implementation of PAFEA
6 policies and programs and (3) monitor and evaluate extension offices and
7 programs being undertaken by government agencies. The PAFEA is authorized
8 to utilize existing Agricultural Training (ATI) plantilla positions but in no case
9 shall it exceed 85% of the plantilla positions in 2010.
10
11
12
13
14
15

16 ARTICLE III

17 Organization of the Local Government Extension Services

18
19 **SECTION 13. *Province as the LGU Unit of Operation for Agriculture &***
20 ***Fisheries Extension.*** - To achieve efficiency and to provide more responsive
21 services, the administrative unit for the planning and implementation of the
22 extension services at the level of Local Government Units is the province
23 through a Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Services under the
24 Office of the Governor. The Provincial Agriculture and Extension Services shall
25 be headed by a technically-qualified career Provincial Agriculturist (PA). The
26 PAS shall be appointed by the Director General of PAFEA chosen from three
27 qualified nominees submitted by the Governor. Its staff shall be composed of
28 technically qualified career agriculturists, economists, statisticians, agricultural
29 engineers, fishery technologists and veterinarians appointed by the
30 Provincial Governor.
31
32

33 **SECTION 14. *Extension Personnel in the Municipalities.*** - All municipal
34 and non-chartered agriculture and fisheries extension personnel are hereby
35 transferred to the province, and they shall be appointed by Governor and
36 become employees of the provincial government upon the effectivity of this
37 Act. However, they will continue to serve municipalities and non-chartered
38 cities as detailed employees of the province based on a rationalized
39 organizational structure endorsed by the LGUs and approved by the PAFEA
40 and the DBM. The Municipal Agriculture and Extension Services shall be
41 headed by a technically-qualified career Municipal Agriculturist Officer (MAO)
42 who shall be appointed by the Director General of PAFEA chosen from three
43 qualified nominees submitted by the Governor.
44
45

46 **SECTION 15. *Salaries and Wages of Extension Personnel.*** - The salaries
47 and wages of the agriculture and fisheries technical extension personnel shall
48 be paid by the National Government through an annual grant-in-aid to be paid

1 out of the regular appropriation of the PAFEA of the Department of
2 Agriculture; *Provided, however, that* during the first year of the effectivity of this
3 Act, the local government concerned shall reallocate its savings from the
4 personal services for agricultural personnel to its agriculture and fisheries
5 operations; *Provided, further, that* every year thereafter, the concerned LGU
6 shall appropriate the equivalent funds as the minimum amount for its
7 agricultural and fisheries operation or counterparts to national grants-in-aid in
8 agriculture and fisheries, without prejudice to the provision of additional funds
9 that may be allocated by the LGUs for this purpose. The salaries and wages of
10 technical extension personnel shall be standardized and equal to that of
11 comparable positions of national employees without prejudice to the provision
12 of additional staff benefits by concerned LGUs where finances warrant. The
13 provision of grants in aid to pay for the salaries and wages of the technical
14 personnel of the LGU extension services shall be subject to external review and
15 evaluation every five years to determine its impact to the quality of services
16 and its cost-effectiveness. A copy of the report shall be provided to Congress
17 and serve as the basis for the continuation or modification of the grants-in-aid.
18

19
20 **SECTION 16. *Professionalization of Extension Services.*** The PAFEA, in
21 coordination with the Civil Service Commission and subject to the approval of
22 the CERDAF, shall develop qualification standards beyond the minimum set
23 by the Civil Service Commission for the various managerial, technical, and
24 non-technical positions of the extension services of the country including that
25 of all local government units. The PAFEA shall also develop a career path of all
26 technical extension personnel that will allow them regardless of assignment or
27 location in government, to move vertically in the promotion system.
28 Managerial positions shall be open to all qualified personnel regardless of
29 geographic or agency assignment. Towards this end, the PAFEA shall issue
30 guidelines for the creation of a merit promotion boards for each extension
31 agency that will include representatives of the SUCs of agriculture and
32 fisheries.
33

34
35 **SECTION 17. *Structure of the Provincial Extension Services.*** - The
36 provincial agriculture and fisheries extension services shall organize and
37 structure its services based on the agricultural and extension needs of the
38 province and on the standards set by the PAFEA. The technical positions of the
39 PAFEA, and the Provincial Extension Services shall be rationalized to provide
40 the required number of positions for agriculturists, communication and
41 curriculum specialists, economists, agricultural engineers, fishery technologists
42 and veterinarians.
43

44
45 **SECTION 18. *LGU Livestock Production Services.*** In recognition of the
46 need to provide an integrated extension approach to total farm development,
47 the LGU livestock production Services shall be part and parcel of the Provincial
48 Agricultural Office (PAO). In cases where these functions were transferred to

1 the Provincial Veterinary Services, they shall be returned and integrated to the
2 rest of the PA0 services.

3
4
5 **SECTION 19. *Strategic Plan in Agriculture & Fisheries.*** To provide
6 coherence of all government plans in agriculture and fisheries and to achieve
7 efficiency in the use of resources, all provincial governments are required to
8 develop a five-year strategic plan in agriculture and fisheries based on the
9 framework and principles provided by the Department of Agriculture (DA).
10 The Strategic Plan shall serve as the basis for the DA to provide short-term and
11 long-term assistance. The yearly program of work and budget shall be derived
12 from the strategic plan.

13
14
15
16
17
18
19 **ARTICLE IV**
20 **Funding for Extension Services**

21
22 **SECTION 20. *Initial Appropriation.*** - For the first year of
23 implementation of this Act, the amount of five billion pesos (PHP
24 5,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated out of the total budget of the
25 Department of Agriculture (DA) for personal services, grants-in-aid to the
26 LGUs, operation and capital outlay requirements of the Philippine Agriculture
27 and Fisheries Extension Agency (PAFEA).

28
29 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hereby mandated
30 to include annually in the President's program of expenditures for submission
31 to Congress and release an amount not less than five billion pesos (PHP
32 5,000,000,000.00) or one percent of the gross value added in agriculture and
33 fisheries, whichever is higher, for the implementation of this Act.

34
35 The PAFEA is authorized to utilize part of its yearly appropriation to set
36 up or upgrade necessary facilities to improve the provision of national
37 extension services.

38
39 All assets, resources both human and financial of Agriculture Training
40 Institute (ATI), shall be transferred to the PAFEA.

41
42 All revenues generated out of the use of services, facilities and equipment
43 shall be utilized by the Agency to augment its maintenance and operating
44 expenditures subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

45
46
47 **ARTICLE IV**
48 **Final Provisions**

1
2 **SECTION 21. Oversight Committee.** The Congressional Oversight
3 Committee for Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization shall oversee the
4 implementation of this Act for a period not exceeding five (5) years from its
5 effectivity.
6

7 **SECTION 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** -Within ninety (90)
8 days from the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations
9 shall be formulated by the Department of Agriculture in coordination with the
10 members of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and
11 Fisheries Modernization. The said rules and regulations shall be submitted by
12 the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the Committee of
13 Agriculture of both Houses of Congress.
14

15 **SECTION 23. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
16 rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are
17 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
18

19
20 **SECTION 24. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is
21 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby
22 shall remain valid and subsisting.
23

24
25 **SECTION 25. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect thirty (30)
26 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least in two
27 (2) national newspapers of general circulation
28

29 *Approved,*
30
31