**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE**  )
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  )
**First Regular Session**  )
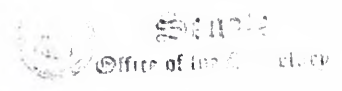
# SENATE

## S. No. 351

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

## AN ACT
### ESTABLISHING THE INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS) IN THE COUNTRY IN COOPERATION WITH CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution directs the State to "provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services."

It is clear that agriculture should be a priority agenda of the State as it is one of the main sources of livelihood among Filipinos with an average employment of 11.4 million since 2008, or equivalent to near one-third of overall employment. In recent years, it has contributed no less than 9 percent on average to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) being the main driver of food security.

However, the latest figures of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) indicate that the agriculture sector stood as the lowest contributor to the GDP among the three major industries in 2020. Declines in the gross value added (GVA) were recorded across many subsectors, particularly,

Farmers and fisherfolks play a significant role in achieving modernization and industrialization of the agricultural sector to ensure enough food supply for the country. They have to be listed and identified in the government's official list of farmers and fisherfolks to be able to enjoy various benefits provided for them. For owners of coconut farms not more than five hectares, tenants, tillers, growers, or farm workers, they will receive benefits stipulated in Republic Act 11524 or Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. They can also select or be selected as representatives in the PCA Board. For rice farmers to be able to access the inbred rice seeds for planting from PhilRice under the Rice Tariffication Law or RA Republic Act 11203 that created

the RCEF, they have to be listed in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). Also, under Republic Act No. 11589 or the Cash Assistance for Filipino Farmers Act which gives financial support to rice farmers tilling two hectares or less until 2024 requires that they should be listed in the RSBSA.

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) in order to cover the investment of subsistence farmers and fisherfolks in agricultural production such as in rice, corn, livestock, high value crops farmers, fishers and aqua culturist and their nonagricultural assets, they have to be in the RSBSA. It identifies who would be beneficiaries for different agriculture-related programs and services of the government, including the granting of free premium for agricultural insurance.

The RSBSA is an electronic compilation of basic information of farmers, farm workers, fishers, and other target agriculture-related beneficiaries of the government. Their data are encoded in the farmers and fishery registry system managed by the DA Central Office.

The identified beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Irrigators Association have to be listed, cross checked and regularly updated in one unified list.

Hence, this bill, which serves as the counterpart of the measure filed by Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor of the 3rd district of Iloilo, which was filed in the 18th Congress, seeks to establish the Agriculture Information System (AIS) in all cities and municipalities in the country to create one centralized database under the Department of Agriculture that will link all systems to streamline the country's agricultural planning process. The AIS, at the local level, shall serve as an online database where information on the demand for specific agricultural and fisheries commodities is gathered and uploaded simultaneously with production data to enable farmers to market their produce to buyers through online means.

The proposed AIS is derived from the Municipal Agriculture Information System (MAIS) of Mina, Iloilo that served as a decision-making tool with an up-to-date inventory of all agricultural commodities in the local government unit (LGU), which provided easy access to a commodity's real-time supply and production situation at all times.

Ultimately, the proposed bill aims to enhance the welfare of all Filipino farmers and enable them to further contribute in the overall development of the country.

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

**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

**S E N A T E**

S. No. __351__

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## AN ACT
## ESTABLISHING THE INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM (AIS) IN THE COUNTRY IN COOPERATION WITH CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE

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

1     SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Agriculture Information
2 System Act"

3     SEC. 2, *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to uplift the
4 socioeconomic conditions of farmers and farming communities nationwide in order to
5 promote their welfare and empower their sector in the overall development and
6 progress of the country. Pursuant to this, an integrated, computerized, web-based
7 agricultural commodity supply inventory and registry system linking farmers and
8 organized communities all over the country needs to be established to provide an
9 easy-to-access local and global real time information for agricultural commodities,
10 with an end view of creating a wider range of market linkages among farmers and
11 agricultural buyers. Furthermore, through a synchronized agriculture information
12 system, the National Government shall have access to real-time agricultural
13 information which can rationalize the objectives and policy directive in the agricultural
14 sector.

15     SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - This Act aims to attain the following objectives:

16     a) Provide an up-to-date database of agricultural and fisheries products in a
17        locality;
18     b) Foster information sharing between farmers and potential buyers of
19        agricultural and fisheries products;

c) Secure a market for agricultural and fisheries products and ensure appropriate return of investment for farmers and fisheries stakeholders;

d) Allow local government units to manage a secure and independent platform that creates linkages for farmers and fisheries stakeholders;

e) Provide data on specific commodities that are readily available in a particular locality for purposes of production monitoring in order to meet the demands of the market;

f) Provide a secure, transparent, and independent modern web application that may be accessed anytime by the public through a multi-platform support or cross-platform support devices which can be linked to existing systems in the Department of Agriculture (DA);

g) Streamline training and seminars in the management of the operations;

h) Monitor the use of inputs given by producers, buyers, and other segments of the value-chain including information during post-harvest and processing; and

i) Ensure that all forms of assistance given to local government units (LGUs), registered cooperatives and other qualified individuals and organizations are monitored.

SEC. 4. *Agricultural Information System.* - All cities and municipalities are hereby mandated to establish an Agricultural Information System (AIS), hereinafter referred to as Information System. The AIS shall serve as a dynamic online computer database where information on the demand for specific agricultural and fisheries commodities is gathered and uploaded simultaneously with the production data from farmers in every barangay. The AIS shall merge and synchronize agricultural data from different sources into a cohesive database designed to facilitate linkages from place of origin or the farm to local, and ultimately, global markets. The AIS shall also be integrated with the existing systems of the DA.

The Information System shall have the following features and contents:

a) Municipal and city-wide identification of individual farmers, fish breeders, aqua culturist and fisherfolk as well as qualified organizations which produce specific farm and fisheries products, regardless of quantity;

b) Crop harvest, volume, and type forecasting;

c) Inventory of specific classification of crop varieties planted including coconut and banana farmers, including livestock, poultry, dairy raisers, and fish catchers in municipal waters and growers as to type of fish raised in a particular LGU;

d) Farmers' and fisherfolk demographics, including age group, gender, ethnic group, income, seminars and trainings attended, and assistance received;

e) Selected reports presented in both tabular and graphical form;

f) Registry of farmers' contact details and farm location to facilitate market linkages;

g) Search engine which allows farmers, fish breeders, and fisherfolk to look for potential and actual buyers and for such buyers to search for farms, farmers, and available agricultural and fisheries products; and

h) Customizable dashboard which is accessible only to registered farmers and fisherfolk clients and contains the farmers' and fisherfolk's profile such as the area of the farm or fishpond, crops planted, livestock, and type of fish raised.

Sec. 5. *Registration.* - All cities and municipalities shall encourage and facilitate the free registration of all farmers, fisherfolk, aqua culturist, agrarian reform beneficiaries, members of the irrigators associations with farms, as well as buyers transacting within their respective areas in the Information System.

Sec. 6. *Functions and Responsibilities of Cities and Municipalities.* - The LGU shall exercise the following functions and responsibilities:

a) The Municipal Agriculture Office, in coordination with the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office, and the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office shall gather, encode, and consolidate all pertinent data on the profile and demographics of farmers, fisherfolk, agrarian reform beneficiaries, member of irrigators associations, as well as buyers;

b) Monitor and control farm inputs including machineries and equipment;

c) For municipalities and component cities, prepare and submit real-time data under a) and b) to the provincial agricultural office and to the respective regional offices of the DA;

d) For highly urbanized cities, submit real-time data to the respective regional offices of the DA;

e) Establish farmer and buyer linkages and act as a gatekeeper at the city or municipal level in the nationwide marketing of agricultural products; and

f) Serve as the web administrator at the municipal or city level and be responsible for integrating farm and fisheries locations into the geographic integration system map.

SEC. 7. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Province.* - The provincial government shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) The Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) is the web administrator at the provincial level and is responsible for integrating farm and fisheries data into the geographic integration system maps for agriculture and fisheries;

b) The Local Economic and Investment Promotion Office (LEIPO) acts as the lead administrator of the AIS in the provincial level and ensures the balance between supply and demand;

c) The Provincial Agricultural Office monitors the submission of reports from municipalities and component cities, and ensures the completeness, accuracy, and validity of data submitted by the Municipal Agricultural Offices and the Municipal Agrarian Reform Offices, City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office; and

d) Except for highly urbanized cities, prepare and submit such data to the regional office of the DA.

SEC. 8. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Regional Office of the DA.* - The regional office of the DA shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Integrated the data provided by the provinces and highly urbanized cities in the existing information systems of the DA such as the National Farmers and Fisheries Information System (NFFIS) which is a web-based data collection system that serves as a platform for updating the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA);

b) Collaborate with the regional offices of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in order to facilitate the availment of the various programs of the DTI as well as strengthen market linkages through such programs;

c) Recommend to the central office of the DA appropriate interventions in the form of marketing, importation, and training assistance, as may be needed;

d) Validate the data from the LGUs acting as the system administrator at the regional level and provide real-time report to the central office of the DA; and,

e) Endorse for financial assistance the qualified fifth and sixth class municipalities that can be given assistance in establishing and maintaining their respective AIS.

SEC. 9. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Central Office of the DA.* - The central office of the DA shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Allocate funding for the integration of the AIS with existing information systems;

b) Coordinate with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to upgrade, expand, and integrated its information systems;

c) Ensure that the implementation, appropriate verification processes and information safeguards are in place pursuant to existing laws and regulations, in coordination with the DICT, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), National Privacy Commission (NPC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

d) Approve the prioritized interventions by the regional offices and allocate corresponding funding;

e) Collaborate with other agencies for the creation of market linkages in the domestic and international markets; and

f) Provide safety nets in the import and export of agricultural products in order to support farmers.

SEC. 10. *Duties of the Secretary.* - The Secretary of the DA shall monitor and ensure the compliance of all cities and municipalities as provided for under this Act and shall, as soon as practicable, establish a centralized AIS that shall integrate and link all existing information systems in the country.

SEC. 11. *Reports.* - The Secretary of the DA shall prepare and submit to the President and both Houses of Congress an annual report on the implementation of the program which shall contain the list of accomplishments and recommendations for improvements.

1       SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* -Within ninety (90) days after
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary
3 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

4       SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the
5 Department's programs the establishment of the integrated and centralized AIS, the
6 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs
7 shall provide the necessary funds for the establishment of an AIS in their respective
8 annual budgets.

9       SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in
11 full force and effect.

12       SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
13 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
14 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

15       SEC. 16. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17       Approved,