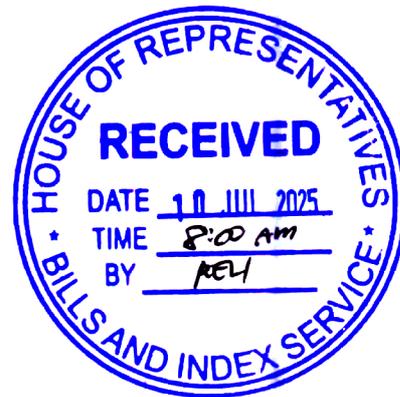


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1707



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No less than the 1987 Constitution mandates the State “to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets.”

As an agricultural country, the Philippines takes pride in its rich flora, fauna, and agricultural products and by-products recognized locally and internationally. Various places in the country also thrive in their rich produce but lack the medium or resource to promote this to nearby places, to the entire country, and to the rest of the world. Consequently, many of the agricultural products went undisposed due to poor linkages and information dissemination, that can be addressed through an organized and unified system or database of agricultural information.

Indeed, there is a call for a need to establish and institutionalize a Philippine Integrated Agricultural Information System or PIAIS.

The PIAIS is a comprehensive information database that will collect and synchronize agricultural data from various sources, which include, but not limited to research institutions, municipalities and cities, universities, private companies and independent research arms, and farmers. This computerized, web-based agricultural inventory will greatly contribute in establishing reliable, relevant, and updated knowledge on the agricultural data of every locality in the country. Further, PIAIS will also be of great help in improving linkages not only from farmer to co-farmer, but also to the consumer and the market.

Apart from the information and data relative to agriculture and its products, crop harvest, volume, and type forecasting, including an inventory of specific classification of crop varieties planted, livestock, poultry, and aquaculture produce in a particular area or locality are included in the PIAIS. Moreover, a registry of farmer or fisherfolk’s contact details and farm location will also be included in the proposed database.

This proposed measure will not only boost the Philippines as an agricultural country, but also, and most importantly, secure a stable market for the country's agricultural and fisheries products, thereby ensuring an appropriate return of investment from our local farmers and fisherfolk.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), are the proposed agencies mandated to spearhead the collection of information and creation of the PIAIS.

On behalf of the 2nd District of Ilocos Norte, and for the greater benefit of our Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1707

Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE INTEGRATED
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (PIAIS) IN ALL CITIES
AND MUNICIPALITIES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
Integrated Agricultural Information Systems Act.”

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

SECTION 3. Objectives. – This Act aims to attain the following
objectives:

- a. Provide an up-to-date database of agricultural and fisheries products
in a locality;
- b. Foster information sharing between farmers and potential buyers of
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 (LGUs) 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.

SECTION 4. *Integrated Agriculture Information System.* – All cities and municipalities are hereby mandated to establish an Integrated Agriculture Information System (IAIS), hereinafter referred to as Integrated formation System. The IAIS 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 IAIS 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 IAIS shall also be integrated with the existing systems of the DA.

The Integrated formation System shall have the following features and contents:

- a. Municipal and city-wide identification of individual farmers, fish breeders, 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, livestock, and 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 accessible only to registered farmers and fisherfolk clients, which contains the farmers' and fisherfolks' profile, such as the area of the farm or fishpond, crops planted, livestock, and type of fish raised.

SECTION 5. *Registration.* – All cities and municipalities shall encourage and facilitate the free registration of all farmers, fisherfolk, as well as buyers transacting within their respective areas in the Integrated formation System.

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

- a. The Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO), in coordination with the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office (MARO), shall gather, encode, and consolidate all pertinent data on the profile and demographics of farmers, fisherfolk, 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.

SECTION 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 IAIS in the provincial level and ensures the balance between supply and demand;
- c. The Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) monitors the submission of reports from municipalities and component cities, and ensures the completeness, accuracy, and validity of the data submitted by the MAOs and the MAROs; and
- d. Except for highly urbanized cities, prepare and submit such data to the regional office of the DA.

SECTION 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. Integrate 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), 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 to 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 (5th) and sixth (6th) class municipalities that can be given assistance in establishing and maintaining their respective IAIS.

SECTION 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 integrate 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 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.

SECTION 10. *Duties of the Secretary of Agriculture.* – 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 IAIS that shall integrate and link all existing information systems in the country.

SECTION 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 improvement.

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

SECTION 13. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DA shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the integrated and centralized IAIS, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). The LGUs shall provide the necessary funds for the establishment of an AIS in their respective annual budgets.

SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or regulation inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,