

RA8435
Chapter 2
Agriculture and Fisheries
Modernization Plan

SEC.13. *Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan (AFMP).* - The Department, in consultation with the farmers and fisherfolk, the private sector, NGOs, people's organizations and the appropriate government agencies and offices shall formulate and implement a medium-and long-term-comprehensive Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan shall focus on five (5) major concerns:

- a.) Food security;
- b.) Poverty alleviation and social equity;
- c.) Income enhancement and profitability, especially for farmers and fisherfolk;
- d.) Global competitiveness; and
- e.) Sustainability

SEC. 14. *Food Security, Poverty Alleviation, Social Equity and Income Enhancement.* - The Department, in coordination with other concerned departments or agencies, shall formulate medium-and long-term plans addressing food security, poverty alleviation, social equity and income enhancement concerns based on, but not limited to the following goals and indicators of development.

- a) Increase income and profit of small farmers and fisherfolk
- b) Availability of rice and other staple foods at affordable prices;
- c) Reduction of rural poverty and income inequality;
- d) Reduction of the incidence of malnutrition;
- e) Reduction of rural unemployment and underemployment; and
- f) Improvement in land tenure of small farmers.

SEC. 15. *Global Competitiveness and Sustainability.* - The Department shall formulate medium-and long term plans aimed at enhancing the global competitiveness and sustainability of the country in agriculture and fisheries based on, but not limited to, the following goals and indicators of development:

- a) Increase in the volume, quality and value of agriculture and fisheries production for domestic consumption and for exports;
- b) Reduction in post-harvest losses;
- c) Increase in the number/types and quality of processed agricultural and fishery products;
- d) Increase in the number of international trading partners in agriculture and fishery products;

- e) Increase in the number of sustainable agriculture and fisheries firms engaged in domestic production, processing, marketing and export activities;
- f) Increase in and wider level of entrepreneurship among farmers and fisherfolk in the area;
- g) Increase in the number of farms engaged in diversified farming; and
- h) Reduced use of agro-chemicals that are harmful to health and the environment

SEC. 16. *Global Climate Change* - The Department, in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (P.A.G.A.S.A.) and such other appropriate government agencies, shall devise a method of regularly monitoring and considering the effect of global climate changes, whether disturbances, and annual productivity cycles for the purpose of forecasting and formulating agriculture and fisheries production programs.

SEC. 17. *Special Concerns*. - The Department shall consider the following areas of concerns, among others, in formulating the AFMP:

- a) Strategies and programs aimed to achieve growth and profitability targets in the context of the constraints and challenges of the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- b) Programs arising from the implementation of the Agrarian Reform Program;
- c) Identification of SAFDZ;
- d) Infrastructure and market support for the SAFDZ;
- e) Infrastructure support to make agriculture and fisheries production inputs, information and technology readily available to farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives and entrepreneurs;
- f) Credit programs for small farmers and fisherfolk, and agricultural graduates;
- g) Comprehensive and integrated agriculture and fisheries research, development and extension services;
- h) Preservation of biodiversity, genetic materials and the environment;
- i) Adequate and timely response against environmental threats to agriculture and fisheries;
- j) Rural non-farm employment;
- k) Access to aquatic resources by fisherfolk;
- l) Basic needs program for the impoverished sectors of society who will be affected by liberalization;
- m) Indigenous peoples;
- n) Rural youth;
- o) Women
- p) Handicapped persons; and
- q) Senior citizens

SEC. 18. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - The Department shall develop the capability of monitoring the AFMP through a Program Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation System (PBMES). In addition, it can secure the services of independent consultants and external evaluators in order to assess its over-all impact. The Department shall make periodic reports to the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization.

SEC. 19. *Role of Other Agencies.* - All units and agencies of the government shall support the Department in the implementation of the AFMP.

In particular, the Department of Public Works and Highways shall coordinate with the Department with respect to the infrastructure support aspect of the plan in order to accomplish networking of related infrastructure facilities.

The Department of Interior and Local Government shall provide assistance to the Department in mobilizing resources under the control of local government units.

The Department of Trade and Industry, Agrarian Reform, Science and Technology, and Environment and Natural Resources shall coordinate their investment programs and activities to complement the Department's implementation of the AFMP.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services and Development shall coordinate with the Department to determine the financial requirements of small farmers and fisherfolk to adjust to the effects of modernization as envisioned in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall provide technical assistance and advice on the delineation of the SAFDZ and on the development of the Department's environmental protection plans.

The departments referred to above shall be required to identify in their budget proposals the allocation intended for the improvement of the environmental and other conditions affecting agriculture and fisheries.

Congressional initiatives shall also be coordinated by the Committees on Agriculture of both Houses to complement and enhance the programs and activities of the Department in the implementation of the AFMP.