

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3627, June 22, 1963]

AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS TO CENTRALIZE AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COLLECTION, COMPILATION AND OFFICIAL RELEASE OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, TO UNDERTAKE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCHES IN AGRICULTURE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL PURPOSES ADEQUATE AND RELIABLE DATA AND INFORMATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

DECLARATION OF POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to facilitate the sound technological, social and economic development of Philippine agriculture in proper balance with the rest of the national economy and accordingly, to provide adequate means and facilities (a) for collecting, compiling and making available for all purposes, adequate statistical data and information on all aspects of agriculture and natural resources and (b) for undertaking economic researches in agriculture, providing a rational basis thereby for its sound economic and technological development from the standpoint of rural welfare and the national economy.

SEC. 2. To implement the above-stated policy and realize the overall objective thereof, a Bureau of Agricultural Economics, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau is hereby created.

SEC. 3. Agricultural statistics for purposes of this Act shall include statistics of natural resources pertaining to mines, lands, fisheries, forestry and associated industries or occupations.

POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE BUREAU

SEC. 4. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics shall have the authority and responsibility to coordinate all statistical activities of all bureaus, corporate agencies, offices and divisions under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and shall have immediate authority and responsibility for the collection, tabulation, analysis and official presentation and release of all statistics of agriculture pertaining to crops, livestock and livestock products and other related statistics.

SEC. 5. The statistics of mines, lands, fisheries and forestry shall be collected, assembled and compiled, respectively, by the Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Lands,

Philippine Fisheries Commission and Bureau of Forestry: *Provided, however,* That the methods to be used in collecting, assembling and compiling statistics by these bureaus shall be approved by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which shall submit them for final approval to the Office of Statistical Coordination and Standards of the National Economic Council, and that each of these bureaus shall submit quarterly its compilations to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics: *Provided, further,* That the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shall collect any original data pertaining to any of the natural resources if it so deems it necessary in answer to any particular need that may arise: *Provided finally,* That such original data on natural resources shall not be the same as to their nature, specific place of origin and methods of collection, as those already collects the bureau concerned.

SEC. 6. The Bureau shall compile agricultural data from agricultural attaches in the foreign service and also provide same with domestic agricultural information that may needed for dissemination abroad.

SEC. 7 The Bureau shall undertake economic researches and studies in agriculture relative to the economics of farm production including farm organization and management; land economics and agricultural development; labor requirement, farm practices and mechanization; farm costs and returns; agricultural investment, finance, credit, taxation and all factors affecting the success or failure of farm business; and also relative to the rural welfare and agricultural marketing, including prices, foreign trade, transportation, storage and warehousing, food supplies and consumption, farm labor and wages, farm incomes, farm population, rural organization, agricultural relations, laws and legislation.

SEC. 8. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics shall undertake such other activities as the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources may direct within the fields of agricultural statistics and economics.

SEC. 9. The Bureau shall make and publish periodical forecasts of the production for the current year of at least ten selected farm products.

SEC.10. The Bureau shall make and publish final annual estimates of agricultural production by crops, number of each kind of livestock, types of product, regions and provinces. The Bureau shall also publish, upon completion, of its studies in the form of reports, bulletins, pamphlets or other official publications.

SEC. 11. The collection of data and information by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics may be secured by any technical means or method that is deemed valid and proper, from farmers, individuals, or institutions in rural areas or elsewhere. Such farmers, individuals or institutions to whom a questionnaire or form is delivered shall be required to submit information or accomplish the form or questionnaire personally or cause the same to be accomplished by their duly authorized agent or representative.

SEC. 12. Information obtained from farmers, individuals and institutions will be published only in statistical form. Information pertaining to any single individual, or small groups of individuals, and in particular, the names of all farmers, individuals, and institutions furnishing such information, will be strictly confidential, shall not be divulged to any other government department or to any unauthorized person and may not be used as evidence in the prosecution of any individual or institution, for