

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2084, June 15, 1958]

AN ACT TO PROMOTE RICE AND CORN PRODUCTION

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Rice and Corn Production Act of 1958.

SEC. 2. It is hereby declared to be the national policy to attain self-sufficiency in rice and corn at the earliest possible time and to provide adequate measures to insure permanent stability in the production of these cereals by marshalling all government agencies to increase rice and corn production at a minimum cost.

SEC. 3. To achieve this objective of increased production, a four-year rice and corn production program shall be planned and executed under the direct control and management of a Rice and Corn Coordinating Council to be composed of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as Chairman and Coordinator, the Directors of the Bureaus of Plant Industry, Public Works, Soils, Agricultural Extension, Animal Industry, Lands, and Mines, the Dean of the U.P. College of Agriculture, a representative of the Department of General Services, the Administrator of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA), and the Manager of the National Rice and Corn Corporation (NARIC), as members. The Council shall be responsible for the success of the promotion of rice and corn production; it shall formulate the overall policies and methods that will guide the implementation of the program. The Chairman and Coordinator shall be the presiding officer of the Council and shall be primarily responsible for the execution of the policies and methods that the Council shall formulate from time to time, with powers to direct participating agencies to perform their part in the program. The Coordinator, with the approval of the Coordinating Council, is hereby authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. In the attainment of the objectives of the program, the Coordinator may organize such teams of technical men from the Bureaus of Plant Industry, Agricultural Extension, Animal Industry, Soils, Lands, Mines, and Public Works, the Department of General Services, the U.P. College of Agriculture, ACCFA, NARIC and such other agencies that he may designate after consultation and approval of the Council, to supervise the execution of the program and such other personnel as are necessary for the successful prosecution of the plans as outlined in the four-year rice and corn production program: *Provided, however,* That the amount for personnel shall not exceed five *per centum* of the appropriation authorized by this Act: *And provided, further,* That all appointments of additional personnel shall be subject to the approval of the Coordinating Council.

SEC. 4. The rice and corn production program envisioned in this Act shall cover the following phases considered necessary to achieve the immediate objective of increased production of rice and corn, as follows: (1) research and experimentation

of seed varieties for both rice and corn; (2) production and distribution of registered and certified seeds; (3) procurement and distribution of certified fertilizers and soil conditioners; (4) control of plant pests and plant animal diseases; (5) public agricultural information, including demonstration farms; and (6) purchase of modern rice and corn processing mills.

SEC. 5. During the first, second, third, and fourth years of the program, there shall be established under the direct supervision and control of the Coordinating Council the following administrative divisions, namely: (1) Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Development, (2) Irrigation Development, and (3) Mechanization Development. These three divisions are created to plan, organize, and execute the long-range objectives of the program, to insure permanent stability in the production of rice and corn, The major functions, respectively, shall be (1) to make surveys of fertilizer and soil conditioner sources in the Philippines; (2) to administer the plans for aid in the construction of self-help communal irrigation system in unirrigated rice regions by duly organized communal irrigation associations with a view to increasing acreage of irrigated ricelands for rice production; and (3) to acquire, purchase, and make available all mechanized farm implements acquired under this Act and to administer tractor pools that the Coordinating Council may organize for the purpose of increasing acreage for corn production.

SEC. 6. The ACCFA under the supervision of the Rice and Corn Coordinating Council is charged with the purchase, distribution, sale and collection of payments for fertilizers and soil conditioners purchased under this Act and sold or advanced to farmers under the loan plan herein provided, in accordance with such policies, rules and regulations approved by the Council as will insure the equitable distribution of fertilizers and soil conditioners to farmers based on a farmers census consisting of such farmers registered as directly cooperating in the increased production program and to insure further that fertilizers and soil conditioners issued under this Act shall be used for the purpose they are intended and not channeled to the black market: *Provided*, That fertilizers and soil conditioners shall be sold in cash or advanced, payable in palay corn at the end of the harvest; that the quantity of fertilizers and soil conditioners to be sold to farmers per hectare shall be in accordance with a schedule determined by the Council on the basis of the farm area actually under cultivation; that if sold in cash, payment shall not exceed fifty per cent of procurement, handling, and storage cost; that if advanced, payable in palay or corn, computation shall be based on cash value of fifty per cent of the procurement, handling and storage of the fertilizer and soil loner and the government price for palay or corn: *Provided, further*, That fertilizers and soil conditioners shall be procured first from locally produced supplies which shall not exceed the cost of imported fertilizers and the balance shall be filled through importation after a public bidding conducted by a Committee composed of the Secretary of Finance or his representative as Chairman, the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources or his representative, the Secretary of General Services or his representative and the Administrator of the ACCFA or his representative as members: *Provided, finally*, That no fertilizer and soil conditioner shall be sold to farmers without prior soil analysis.

No fertilizer, soil conditioner or selected seeds shall be resold by any farmer receiving the same from the government. The distributing agency of fertilizer, soil conditioner or selected seeds shall take all steps to prevent the waste and blackmarketing of the same, and shall provide the greatest publicity concerning the