

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE PHILIPPINE
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"; recognizing the importance of biotechnology in agricultural modernization, rural development and environmental management;

MINDFUL of the importance of biotechnology as an important research and development strategy to attain food security, enhance environmental integrity, and improve productivity;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the President of the Philippines has approved on 21 January 2000 the institutionalization of a national policy to use biotechnology as a strategy to improve agricultural production, modernize Philippine agriculture and fisheries, and enhance rural development;

COGNIZANT of the fact that the United States Government under PL 480 has made available to the Philippine Government through the Department of Agriculture, funding in the form of a commodity loan of US \$ 7.0 million in its Philippine peso equivalent under the Food for Peace Program, which will be used for biotechnology activities such as research and development, capacity enhancement, outreach programs, socio economic analysis and policy advocacy, and technology promotion and commercialization in order to meet the challenges and requirements of a modernized agriculture in the Philippines;

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1
GENERAL PROVISION**

The Parties undertake to cooperate in the field of the agriculture and fisheries biotechnology program within the limits of their national laws, relevant regulations and generally accepted principles of International Law.

**ARTICLE 2
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**

To ensure the smooth implementation of the Program, the Philippine Government designates the Department of Agriculture as the lead agency to supervise the execution of the Program.

The United States Government designates the United States Department of W Agriculture as the lead agency to oversee the progress of the Program.

**ARTICLE 3
SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM**

The techniques and tools of biotechnology shall be used in the improvement of present yields of selected crops, trees and livestock; improvement of quality of products; and bioremediation of the environment, inter alia. Specific strategies will be adopted such as: whenever possible,

1. direct transfer of available foreign technologies;
2. procurement of gene constructs if already available elsewhere through negotiated material transfer agreements or licensing with researchers/laboratories abroad;
3. development of own technologies/gene constructs when feasible; and
4. adoption of foreign technologies when feasible

The Program shall have the following components:

1. Policy Analysis and Advocacy
2. Biotechnology Industrial Development and Capacity Enhancement Program
3. Biotechnology Research and Development Program
4. Risk Analysis: Assessment, Management, and Communication
5. Biotechnology Commercialization Program

ARTICLE 4 DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

The entire Program will commence on the year 2000 and will remain in force for a period of five (5) years.

ARTICLE 5 IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT

The Department of Agriculture, through its designated agencies, shall be responsible for establishing the operational guidelines in the management or coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the different components of the Program including the creation of a Project Implementation Unit to oversee the whole Program, under the direction of a Steering Committee to be chaired by the Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture will seek waivers on duties for equipment and supplies purchased with PL 480 funding for the Project.

The United States Department of Agriculture shall provide the assistance in identifying service providers and facilitating necessary arrangements in the United States for all human resources and facility development aspects of the program.

The United States Department of Agriculture shall also help assess the current strengths and weaknesses of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Biotechnology Program and recommend ways to strengthen the program. Subsequent annual assessments and progress reviews will be conducted as needed.