

Republic Act No. 10601
Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law
June 5, 2013

The policy recognizes the need to give priority to the development and promotion of appropriate agricultural machinery and other agricultural mechanization technologies, to enhance agricultural mechanization in the country. This shall be done through the development, adoption, assembly, manufacture and application of appropriate, location-specific and cost-effective agricultural and fisheries machinery using human, animal, mechanical, electrical, renewable and other nonconventional sources of energy for agricultural production and postharvest/postproduction operations consistent with agronomic conditions and for efficient and economic farm and fishery management towards modernization of agriculture and fisheries.

The policy covers the areas of research, development, and extension (RDE), promotion, distribution, supply, assembling, manufacturing, regulation, use, operation, maintenance and project implementation of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment. Specifically, the policy states to (a) promote the development and adoption of modern, appropriate and cost-effective and environmentally-safe agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment to enhance farm productivity and efficiency in order to achieve food security and safety and increase farmers' income; (b) provide a conducive environment to the local assembling and manufacturing of engines, machinery, and equipment for agricultural and fisheries production, processing and marketing; (c) ensure the quality and safety of machinery and equipment locally manufactured or imported by strengthening regulation through the development and enforcement of machinery and machine performance standards, regular testing and evaluation, registration, and the accreditation and classification of suppliers, assemblers, and manufacturers to ensure compliance to prescribed quality standards; (d) Strengthen support services such as credit facilities, research, training and extension programs, rural infrastructures, postharvest facilities, and marketing services; (e) unify, rationalize and strengthen the implementation, coordination of activities and mechanisms on agricultural and fisheries mechanization programs and projects; and (f) deliver integrated support services to farmers, fisherfolk and other stakeholders, and assist them to be able to viably operate and manage their agricultural and fisheries mechanization projects.

Salient Extension Provisions

Section 7. *Unified National Research and Development (R&D) and Extension Agenda.* – A unified National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Research and Development and Extension (RDE) Agenda shall be formulated and implemented by the DA: *Provided, That* the DA, through the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) as focal agency, shall integrate and unify all agricultural and fisheries mechanization RDE programs and projects of all concerned national government agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), which shall be geared towards development of machineries and equipment, job generation, address market and industry demands and help accelerate agricultural and fisheries modernization in the countryside.

The National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization RDE Agenda shall include, but not be limited, to the following:

- a) Development, pilot-testing, and commercialization of appropriate, location-specific and cost-effective agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment in support to contiguous farming and machinery pooling;
- b) Design and testing of new machinery and equipment for agriculture and fisheries;
- c) Local manufacture and assembly of agricultural engines and equipment;
- d) Development and utilization of renewable and nonconventional energy resources such as wind, biomass, hydro, solar and biofuels for agricultural and fisheries equipment and machinery;
- e) Development of efficient production and postproduction mechanization systems;
- f) Continuous development of technical standards and testing procedures for quality agricultural machinery and components;
- g) Training of farmers, fisherfolk, manufacturers, extension workers, agricultural engineers, technicians and operators engaged in the agricultural and fisheries mechanization;

- h) Promotion of technologies through agricultural and industrial extension activities and techno-demo centers;
- i) Development of prototype and fabrication of agricultural machinery and equipment; and
- j) Development and conduct of commercialization strategies involving all sectors representing the demand and supply sides of agricultural and fisheries mechanization technologies.

Section 8. *Agri-fisheries Mechanization RDE Network.* – An Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization RDE Network is hereby organized and composed of research and educational institutions, LGUs, nongovernment organizations and the recognized and well-established associations of agricultural and fisheries machinery assemblers, manufacturers and distributors, agricultural engineers, farmers, and fisherfolk. The Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization RDE Network shall be responsible for the formulation and implementation of the National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization RDE Agenda. The PHilMech shall be responsible for organizing the Network and shall serve as secretariat to the Network. The Network shall be chaired by the Director of the PHilMech.

Moreover, the Agricultural Mechanization Development Program of the University of the Philippines, Los Baños (UPLB), which is part of the Network, shall be strengthened and institutionalized to lead and coordinate the agricultural and fishery mechanization RDE program of all academic institutions in the country.

Section 9. *Agri-fisheries Machinery and Equipment Service Centers.* – The DA and the LGUs shall encourage and support the private sector and other rural entrepreneurs to establish and operate agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment service centers in the Strategic Agricultural and Fishery Development Zones (SAFDZs)) and Agrarian Reform Communities. The Agri-fisheries Machinery and Equipment Service Center's shall be operated as business enterprises that will provide the following services:

- a) After-sales service and warranty to their respective clients;
- b) Custom plowing, harrowing, harvesting, drying, milling, and other farm mechanization services;
- c) Repair and troubleshooting services of agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment; and
- d) Training of maintenance and proper use of agricultural machinery and equipment.

The ownership and operation of Agri-fisheries Machinery and Equipment Service Centers shall not be the exclusive domain of equipment and machinery suppliers. These may be owned and operated by registered cooperatives or by businesses registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Section 10. *Agri-fisheries Mechanization and Engineering Resource Network.* – The existing agricultural machinery information and database of the PHilMech shall be strengthened into an agri-fishery mechanization and engineering resource network. It will also be used or tapped as a facility for the online registration of agri-fisheries machinery and equipment, and monitoring of agri-fisheries mechanization and infrastructure projects. This network shall be linked to other existing information and database networks of the DA, the Agricultural Machinery Information Network of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Agricultural Mechanization Development Program of the UPLB and of other government agencies.

Section 11. *Research Grants.* – To enhance research and technological development on agricultural and fisheries mechanization, the government through the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the DA, the DOST and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall provide competitive research grants to members of the Network to undertake needs-oriented research as well as institutional development and upgrading of laboratory facilities and equipment.

Section 12. *Training and Scholarship Program.* – The DA, in partnership with SUCs and the private sector, shall train the agricultural extension workers and agricultural engineers of the LGUs who in turn shall train the farmers and fisherfolk on agricultural and fisheries mechanization technologies and practices.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall be responsible for the training of agricultural and fisheries machinery technicians and operators.

Furthermore, scholarships for graduate and undergraduate degrees in agricultural engineering and trade/vocational courses on agricultural and fisheries mechanization shall be given priority by the DA, the CHED, and the DOST.

Section 13. *Manpower Complement.* – All agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers, including sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments, either public or private, shall have the required manpower complement of licensed agricultural engineers and certified technicians and operators, in accordance with the guidelines and standards to be promulgated by the Board of Agricultural Engineering (BoAE) of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the DOLE to ensure efficient operation and maintenance and good management practices. The DA shall ensure compliance with this manpower complement requirement.

Section 14. *Skills Certification of Agricultural Machinery Technicians and Operators.* – The TESDA, in collaboration with the DA, the BoAE and the national associations of agricultural engineers and agricultural machinery assemblers, manufacturers and distributors, shall undertake skills certification and accreditation systems for agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians.

Source:

Retrieved from the Compendium of Extension Policies and Extension-Related Policy Studies & Research of ATI-PPD (2017) and

https://www.doe.gov.ph/sites/default/files/pdf/issuances/ra_10601.pdf