

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session



**HOUSE BILL NO. 8818**

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**Introduced by**  
**REPRESENTATIVE JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Agriculture plays a vital role in the Philippine economy. It provides employment and food security for the population. However, farmers often face challenges such as limited access to quality seedlings and expensive fertilizers which hinder their productivity and profitability not to mention harsh weather patterns that destroy their inputs. To address these issues, it is necessary to establish a comprehensive subsidy program that will enable farmers to access affordable seedlings and fertilizers.

Providing farmers subsidies for seedlings will enable them to obtain the necessary plant varieties that are suited for their specific agricultural practices and local conditions. On the other hand, fertilizers often have high cost that poses a financial burden on farmers. Giving them access to subsidies will alleviate this burden and enable them access to these crucial inputs at reduced prices.

This subsidy program will encourage the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, improve crop yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance the overall sustainability of farming operations.

Finally, this subsidy program for agricultural farmers is a crucial step towards supporting agricultural farmers in the country. Such a program will enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable farming practices, and improve the livelihoods of farmers. The implementation of such program can ensure long-term growth and development of the agricultural sector in the country.

Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

**JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI, JR.**  
Representative  
Third District, Bukidnon

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTING A SEEDLING AND FERTILIZER SUBSIDY PROGRAM TO**  
**ALL FARMERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "National Seedling and Fertilizer Subsidy Act."

Section 2. National Seedling and Fertilizer Subsidy Program. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall implement a National Seedling and Fertilizer Subsidy Program which shall benefit qualified farmers.

Section 3. Seedling Subsidy. – The DA shall provide seedling subsidy vouchers to qualified farmer beneficiaries. The DA shall determine the amount of subsidy vouchers not lower than P10,000.00 per hectare annually depending on the current situation and prevailing market prices.

Section 4. Fertilizer Subsidy. – The DA shall provide fertilizer subsidy to qualified farmer beneficiaries. The DA shall determine the amount of subsidy vouchers and fertilizers depending on the current situation and prevailing market prices with the following scheme:

- a. Six bags of fertilizers or subsidy vouchers not lower than P10,000.00 per hectare annually for those who plant inbred seeds;
- b. Seven bags of fertilizers or subsidy vouchers not lower than P10,000.00 per hectare for those who plant hybrid annually.

Section 5. Eligible Beneficiaries. – To be eligible for the seedling and fertilizer subsidy, beneficiaries must meet the following criteria:

- a. A bonafide Filipino citizen who is a member of the Agri-basic sector;
- b. Must be at least 18 years old at the time of registration;
- c. Must be a farmer, farm laborer/worker or Agri-youth based on the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) Definitions of Members of the Agricultural and Fisheries Sector.

Qualified farmers registered under the RSBSA shall be automatically included as eligible beneficiaries of the subsidy program.

**Section 6. Program Report.** – The DA shall annually submit to the agricultural committee of both houses of Congress a report assessing the fertilizer and pesticide subsidy program. Each report required shall include, for the one-year period ending on March of the year in which the report is submitted.

- a. The number of farmers that participated in the program;
- b. Information regarding the demographic characteristics of the farmer beneficiaries;
- c. Description of the steps taken by the DA to help the farmer beneficiaries;
- d. Overall production performance by the farmer-beneficiaries;
- e. Assessment of its impact in our National Food Security Plan.

**Section 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act.

**Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DA, in coordination with relevant government agencies, shall issue rules, regulations, and guidelines necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this Act within six months from date of effectivity.

**Section 9. Mandatory Review on the Implementation of this Act.** – The DA shall submit to the Congress a report on the implementation of this Program at the end of the second year from the date of effectivity of this Act and every two years thereafter.

**Section 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

**Section 12. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,