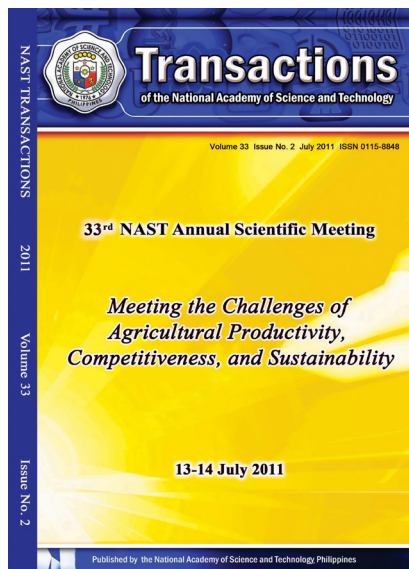


Transactions NAST PHL, is the official journal of the National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines. It has traditionally published papers presented during the Academy's Annual Scientific Meeting since 1979 to promote science-based policy discussions of and recommendations on timely and relevant national issues as part of its functions as a national science academy. Starting in 2021, this journal has been open to contributions from the global scientific community in all fields of science and technology.



Meeting the Challenges of Agricultural Productivity, Competitiveness, and Sustainability RESOLUTIONS

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Republic of the Philippines
**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
PHILIPPINES**

Department of Science and Technology

33rd Annual Scientific Meeting
July 13-14, 2011 ~ Manila Hotel

**RESOLUTIONS ON MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, COMPETITIVENESS, AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

Whereas, the majority of Filipinos specifically in the countryside are heavily dependent on agriculture, accounting for about 14% of the gross domestic product, 6-8 percent of exports and 37% of employment;

Whereas, the science community, led by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines, recognizing the pivotal role of modernizing agriculture in achieving the national development goals of poverty alleviation, global competitiveness, food security and sustainability has crafted a medium term strategic plan for agriculture and natural resources entitled Philippine Agriculture 2020 (PA 2020);

Whereas, the Department of Agriculture (DA), DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Science and Technology through the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development and Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Research and Development and other concerned agencies are starting to take cognizance of and adopt the recommendations in PA 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines on their 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting recommends the following actions to be addressed accordingly by the appropriate offices and agencies:

Office of the President and Legislative Bodies

- a) Enactment of a Comprehensive National Land Use Plan Law, Lands Administration Reform Law and the establishment of the Lands Administration Authority (LAA) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for an integrated, unified, synchronized system of land use planning at all levels. LAA will integrate the functions of Lands Registration Authority, Registry of Deeds, Lands Management Bureaus, Lands Management Services and National Mapping Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA);
- b) That the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) be phased-out by 2014 as planned, and the residual functions and staff be integrated with DA and respective LGUs and the parcelization of CLOAs to individual titles be completed;

Office of the President, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DoF), Department of Agriculture (DA);

- a) Creation of a Small Farmers Fund combined with Farm Insurance with single digit interest rates (subsidized credit and insurance for small farmers/fisherfolks);
- b) Upgrade and a regularize the budget and resources of DA bureaus and agencies commensurate with their mandated functions

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

- a) Immediate completion of cadastral maps to delineate forestlands, protected areas and ancestral domains;
- b) Facilitating and expediting the completion by LGUs of their respective comprehensive land use plan (CLUPs) to serve as an integrating framework in the management of resources;

Department of Agriculture (DA)

- a) Comprehensive external review of the National Irrigation Authority (NIA), its mandate, functions, performance, future plans and programs;
- b) Exploring the possibility of allowing Irrigators Associations to keep the majority of irrigation fees, of providing incentives for them to organize their associations, pay and collect water fees and properly maintain and manage irrigation systems;
- c) Rationalize allocation of government spending to different crops to reflect their relative importance in the agriculture sector value added. In particular, increase of government support for conservation and development of the country's fisheries resources;

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Agriculture (DA)

- a) Raise the share of agricultural R&D to 1% of GVA of agriculture;

Further resolved as it is hereby resolved that we, members of the scientific community, strongly support the following initiatives:

- a) The convergence initiative being pursued among Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to maximize the investment and initiatives in the countryside and in preparation for the phase-out of DAR in 2014;
- b) The rationalization and redirection of National Food Authority (NFA) in particular, the increase in the share of rice imports by the private sector at the same tariffs as state imports;
- c) Re filing and immediate passage of the following legislative bills: An Act Strengthening the Animal Industry and Veterinary Services In the Philippines; the National Land Use Act of the Philippines; Land Administration Reform Act; and Agricultural Education Act.