

# ***Beyond Farm Productivity: Transforming the Philippine food system to address equity, consumer health, and environmental issues***

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting**

10-11 July 2024

## **RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, PAGTANAW 2050, and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Strategic Plan, all advocate for equity, consumer health, and environmental conservation in our food system even as we aggressively promote greater productivity, competitiveness, and higher income for farmers and fishers;

WHEREAS, the food system, as defined by the United Nations and as cited in PAGTANAW 2050 embraces all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, markets and trade) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation and consumption of food and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes;

WHEREAS, to address equity, consumer health, and environmental issues, there is a need for both public and private institutions to enhance and strengthen convergence initiatives to transform the Philippine food system;

WHEREAS, a sustainable food system, such as the Planetary Health Diet (PHD) and other culturally-embedded local diets, contribute to human and environmental well-being;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has various policies to transform its food system, such as the Philippine National Food Systems Transformation Pathway and the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (NAFMIP) 2021-2030 being led by the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA) 2022-2028 being led by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD) 2023-2032 being led by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Executive Order No. 27, series of 2023 reorganizing the Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger, among others;

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NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that:

1. For the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to highlight in the national socio-economic development plans the essential complementary objectives of equity, consumer health, and environmental conservation beyond the imperatives of productivity, global competitiveness, and higher farmers and fishers incomes in our food system;
2. For the Department of Agriculture (DA) to:
  - a. Promote large-scale shift of rice, corn, and coconut monocropping into farming systems that integrate vegetables, legumes, and other high value crops, poultry, and livestock both for higher farm incomes and higher domestic food supply;
  - b. Promote and invest in conservation and regenerative agriculture and fisheries practices, such as minimum tillage, cover crops and green manures, biological control measures and newer products, such as biofertilizers, biostimulants, and growth regulators;
  - c. Promote home, school, and community gardens, in collaboration with Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to produce immediate fruits and vegetables needs of households, including promotion of urban horticulture and intensive protected cultivation systems;
  - d. Increase the availability of brown rice, in particular all the palay procured by the National Food Authority (NFA) should be converted to brown rice;
  - e. Implement strategies to eliminate food loss and waste throughout the supply chain—from production and distribution to consumption—to conserve resources and lower greenhouse gas emissions;
  - f. Facilitate the adoption of digital agriculture and fishery technologies, including remote sensing, precision farming and aquaculture, geospatial planning, and drone technologies; and
  - g. Provide technical and financial support for small- and medium-scale farmers and fishers to adopt sustainable agriculture practices such as the use of biotechnology, agroforestry, and integrated pest management;
3. For the Department of Health (DOH) to:
  - a. Strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 11148 also known as Health and Nutrition of Mother and Child Act of 2018; and
  - b. Encourage and educate consumers about healthy diets, such as consumption of brown rice, fruits, and vegetables; Planetary Health Diet (PHD); and culturally-embedded local diets;

4. For the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to:
  - a. Promote and invest in research on conservation and regenerative agriculture and fisheries practices, including eco-friendly packaging materials;
  - b. Ensure that modern technologies are embedded in products and services, which are accessible and affordable;
  - c. Conduct science policy and legislative fora, together with NAST and National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCF), that involve participation from all stakeholders for an effective food system transformation framework; and
  - d. Implement special scholarship program, upskilling and reskilling programs, in collaboration with DA, CHED, DepEd, TESDA, and state universities and colleges (SUCs) for the next generation of farmers and fishers;
5. For the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to facilitate the flow of supply chain and availability of support and entrepreneurial services that will transform the food system;
6. For the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to:
  - a. Develop and support sustainable business models that will allow transition to a circular economy; and
  - b. Strengthen environmental monitoring systems for sustainable farming and fishery activities;

The above resolutions are hereby presented in accordance with the Constitutional provisions and in support of the national agenda towards the transformation of food systems beyond farm productivity addressing equity, human health, and environmental sustainability.

DONE this 11th day of July 2024 in the City of Manila.

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