

# **Impacts of Implementing Rice Tariffication Law (Republic Act 11203) On Local Farmers of Sorsogon City**

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**Abstract**— The study, “Impacts of Implementing Rice Tariffication Law (Republic Act 11203) To Local Farmers of Sorsogon City,” investigates the effects of the Rice Tariffication Law on local farmers. It focuses on the impacts on domestic rice production, rice retail price, food security, and rural livelihood. The study also explores how farmers adjust to these impacts and identifies both facilitating and hindering factors in their coping and adjustment process. Finally, the research proposes a community-based action plan to assist local farmers in navigating the challenges posed by the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law. The findings of this study are crucial in understanding the broader socio-economic implications of agricultural policies and in informing future policy decisions. The study reveals that the Rice Tariffication Law has significantly impacted local farmers. The effects are seen in various areas such as rice production, where farmers have chosen to halt or reduce their production to mitigate potential economic losses. Despite a continuous supply of rice and cheaper unhusked rice, the price of rice has increased. The law has ensured adequate rice supply, contributing to food security. However, it has negatively affected rural livelihoods and the profitability of rice farming. In response, farmers have diversified their crops and allocated rice for self-consumption during harvest to create additional income sources. The study suggests that diversifying agricultural products could be a viable alternative to the now unprofitable rice farming. The study concludes that the Rice Tariffication Law has complex impacts on local farmers, affecting their rice production, rice prices, food security, and rural livelihoods. Farmers have developed coping mechanisms to adjust to these effects, including diversifying their crops and using harvested rice for their consumption. They have also shared strategies that align with their practices to maintain agricultural growth and resilience amidst the changing local and global dynamics of the rice trade. These findings highlight the adaptability of farmers in the face of policy changes and the importance of considering their experiences and strategies in future policy decisions. The study recommends a broader and more intensive research approach, with a larger number of participants, to gain a deeper understanding of the Rice Tariffication Law’s implications on local farmers. It also suggests the formulation and extensive implementation of well-thought-out agricultural policies, along with government provision of start-up materials and equipment, to support and encourage farming alternatives for affected farmers. Furthermore, the study encourages extensive seminars on the diversification of agricultural products, including crops, poultry, and livestock. These measures aim to provide sufficient knowledge, awareness, and options to help displaced farmers recover and reignite their passion for farming.

**Keywords**— local farmers, sorogon city, rice tariffication law, republic act.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Asia is a continent that accounts for a large fraction of the world’s rice produce and consumption, with China and India being the top two (2) rice-consuming countries (Shahbandeh, 2024). Rice, an agricultural crop, is considered a necessity in the majority of Asian households. Not only is it significant in food consumption, but it is also instrumental in the livelihood of farmers. For billions of people in Asia, rice is not only a staple food but also a major source of nourishment and calories. To fight malnutrition and achieve food security, it is crucial to provide access to a variety of nutritious foods, such as rice and other crops. Rice serves as an essential source of nourishing sustenance, providing high levels of energy and vital nutrients. Its

consumption greatly contributes to promoting human health and preventing various diseases. (Mohidem, 2022) In addition, in many Asian nations, rice has great cultural value and is frequently used as a symbol of wealth, fertility, and prosperity. It is a fundamental part of religious rites, cultural festivities, and social customs, demonstrating its significance beyond basic sustenance. (Aggarwal, 2023) Rice farming is also the engine of several Asian enterprises including the processing, packing, milling, and value-added goods including rice flour, rice bran oil, and rice noodles. In rural areas, the rice business has a major positive impact on employment and economic growth. With rice garnering a huge demand in Asian countries, farmers likewise manifest a proportional reliance on rice production as

their main source of revenue. The same can be observed in the Philippines.

The Philippines is a country that relies heavily on the production of its major crops which include rice, coconut, corn, sugarcane, pineapples, and mangoes. Among these crops, rice is the most significant. There is a growing concern about the decline in rice farming across the Philippines, a country that once depended largely on homegrown rice for its food needs. Despite ranking as the eighth biggest rice producer worldwide, recent data suggests that the Philippines now tops the list of rice importers globally. This change has caused rice scarcity, leading to steep prices that are tough for regular Filipinos, especially the many who rely on daily wages, to manage. (Siton-Yap, 2023) For Filipinos, rice is an integral commodity as it is a staple component of every Filipino meal. It is always present in Filipino households' dining tables, however paradoxically, despite being endowed with an agricultural abundance, the Philippines has suffered from a rice shortage crisis in recent years leading to a drastic price hike. Some of the underlying reasons for this crisis are the growing population of the Philippines, inflation, the abandonment, conversion, and reclassification of lands, weather conditions, mismanagement, and corruption.

This, along with many other challenges that Filipinos face in connection to rice, prompted the initiation of the Rice Tariffication Bill authored and sponsored by Senator Cynthia Villar, which was then signed into law on February 14, 2019, by the former President Rodrigo Duterte. Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) was launched in 2019 to aid the growing rice insufficiency by lifting the quantitative restrictions that limited the importation of rice in the Philippines. With this law, importers were allowed to unlimitedly import rice with an imposition of a minimum of 35% tariff up to 40% to stabilize supply and therefore depress the price of rice to make it more affordable for rice consumers. Before its enactment, the Philippines had a quota system in place that limited the amount of rice imports that were permitted into the nation. The goal of this approach was to safeguard the country's rice producers against cheaper import competition.

Unfortunately, corruption and inefficiency caused by the quota system resulted in high rice prices and sporadic shortages in the domestic market. The purpose of the Rice Tariffication Law is to solve these issues and

encourage a more competitive and efficient rice market through reform. The enactment of the Rice Tariffication Law is a milestone towards the objective of alleviating the struggles of Filipino rice consumers in relevance to the issues of price increase. This gesture, however, could affect local rice farmers in two ways--either positively or negatively. It has elicited varying reactions, despite its stated goals of stabilizing rice prices, enhancing market efficiency, and bolstering industry competitiveness. Advocates contend that it enhances consumer welfare by lowering the cost and increasing accessibility to rice; however, while Filipino rice consumers may benefit substantially from the implementation of this law, critics expressed their skepticism towards its possible negative effect on local farmers, especially small-scale farmers, who would find it difficult to compete with less expensive imports and may then suffer from revenue losses.

To protect farmers from the adverse impacts of the Rice Tariffication Law, the government instituted the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) funded by the excess tariffs collected from rice imports. RCEF is a P10B fund that will serve as a safety net that will be utilized to support the needs of local rice farmers to enhance their productivity, competitiveness, and profitability to compete and perform better in the market. The P10-BRCEF will be allocated and disbursed to Filipino farmers. It appears that 50% of the fund will proceed to the necessary types of machinery and equipment that will be helpful in much easier and faster farming operations as the Government supplements them with this kind of technological advancement, 30% will proceed to rice seed development, propagation and promotion as these seeds are one of the major capital for the farmers to start their cropping, 10% for expanded rice credit assistance should the farmers need a supplementary fund to fulfill their cropping and 10% for rice extension services. The law provided furthermore that tariff revenues over P10 billion will be earmarked for the rice farmers' financial assistance, titling of agricultural rice lands expanded crop insurance program on rice, and crop diversification program. In addition, the NFA will buy rice exclusively from local farmers for its buffer stocking mandate for emergencies and disaster relief (Vertudes et.al., 2020).

Despite, however, that the government pledged a careful and intensive implementation of this law, and while it delivers to the purpose of bettering the consumers' welfare, its impact on local rice farmers, particularly in

small cities like that of Sorsogon, remains a subject of concern and debate. Sorsogon City, located in the Bicol Region of the Philippines, is known for its rich agricultural sector and vibrant culture. Situated on the southernmost tip of Luzon Island, Sorsogon City boasts scenic landscapes, diverse flora and fauna, and a thriving farming community. The city is characterized by its lush greenery, with vast rice paddies and coconut plantations dominating its rural areas. Agriculture is the primary livelihood of many residents, with rice farming being a particularly significant activity. The fertile soil and favorable climate make Sorsogon City conducive to agriculture, attracting both small-scale and commercial farmers. Rice farming has long been an integral part of the local economy and culture of Sorsogon City. Large rice paddies dominate the city's agricultural environment and are the main source of income for many residents.

Sorsogon City is home to many small-scale rice farmers who use age-old techniques that have been handed down through the generations to care for their crops. These farmers rely on manual labor and basic farming tools to cultivate their rice crops, often working together in close-knit communities to share knowledge and resources. These farmers sold their produce to nearby marketplaces in a comparatively stable market before the Rice Tariffication Law's introduction. Whether the Rice Tariffication Law brought about significant positive or negative impacts on Sorsogon farmers or not, is what this study is aiming to discover as its implementation may have introduced various shifts to the local rice industry, that could affect farmers' income, production practices, and overall well-being.

This research study investigated the heterogeneous influences of this law in terms of domestic rice production and prices, food security, and the livelihood of the local farmers in Sorsogon City.

## OBJECTIVES

This study assessed the impacts of the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law to the local farmers of Sorsogon City. Specifically, it focused on the law's impacts in terms of Domestic Rice Production, Rice Retail Price, Food Security, and Rural Livelihood. The researcher also proposed a community-based action plan, which contains significant programs to cater for the local farmers in order to provide solutions and mitigate the ramifications of the Rice Tariffication Law to them.

## METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a qualitative research methodology to investigate the impacts of the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) on local farmers in Sorsogon City. Nine (9) farmers from different barangays participated in semi-structured interviews. Purposive sampling was employed to select participants based on their relevance to the research questions that the researcher created. The interview data were analyzed using thematic analysis, focusing on identifying recurring themes and patterns. The data collection procedure involved face-to-face interviews conducted in private settings, with audio recordings transcribed verbatim for analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of the data gathered from the participants regarding the effects of the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law in the multifaceted discipline of rice farming, particularly through the lens of the local farmers in Sorsogon City. It also allowed for a collection of recommendations to abate the negative impacts of the law on the local farmers, and a proposal of programs that may be beneficial for them as they navigate their paths under the promulgated law.

### *I. The Impacts of the Rice Tariffication Law to the Local Farmers*

#### *A. Decrease in rice production*

Rice is a fundamental staple for every Filipino meal. It is, by far, one component that contributes to Filipinos' sustenance. It holds cultural significance and is deeply ingrained in the dietary habits and traditions of Filipino households. Given its significance, changes in rice's availability and cost can have a significant effect on Filipino consumers' lives, influencing both their general well-being and access to food.

Rice Tariffication Law has allowed for rice supply competition inside the country to proliferate, which consequently afforded the local rice farmers unintended consequences, particularly in terms of Production Decline. This has made the rice market more unpredictable and unstable, making it harder for farmers to overcome the difficulties they already face from fluctuating production costs and market conditions.

Since its implementation, the decline in domestic rice production has prevailed. According to Participant No. 3, "Humina po ang produksyon ng lokal na bigas lalo na kung mababa ang bentahan ng palay." This highlights

the adverse consequences of dependency on rice imports, as the local farmers find it difficult to compete with the less expensive imports that are overtaking the market.

Furthermore, the law that was implemented supposedly for the benefit of Filipinos has led to financial difficulties for rice farmers such as reduced income or loss of revenue. This depicts the economic ramifications that arose from the RTL. Participant No. 8 expressed “Nalugi po kami sa unang taon na pinatupad ang batas, pero last year nakabawi kami dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng palay.” Losses in revenue and diminished profitability have become common challenges, as farmers find themselves unable to obtain fair prices for their produce in the face of fierce competition from imported rice.

Participant No. 9 also said “Nagbawas po kami ng tanim, kung dati na 1-hectare ngayon kalahati na lang kasi hindi na namin sigurado kung mataas ang bentahan ng palay.” The reduction in the size of rice production areas reflects farmers' efforts to adapt to the new economic realities and mitigate financial risks associated with declining profitability in rice farming. The nation is undoubtedly on the verge of a food crisis, making the soaring rice prices a pressing issue. (Vertudes, 2020) Furthermore, the proliferation of memorial parks has led to the conversion of farmlands into upscale burial grounds, resulting in the shrinking of rice fields and a subsequent decline in rice production. (Mendoza, 2008)

### ***B. Increase in the price of rice***

The Rice Tariffication Law, with its intention to stabilize the supply of rice and lower its price, sought to alleviate anxieties regarding rice affordability and accessibility. The goal of the regulation was to boost market competition and give customers access to more reasonably priced rice options by allowing the importation of rice from other neighboring countries. However, the influx of less expensive rice imports into the market has increased competition and pushed locally produced rice prices lower.

The alterations resulting from the implementation of the Rice Tariffication law proved effective in stabilizing the supply of rice, but ineffective in mitigating the increase of its price. Participant No. 1 shared “Nagtaas ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado. Bumaba din ang presyo ng palay. Ang epekto nito sa mga magsasaka ay ang

kahirapan.” This fluctuation elicits lowered purchasing power for consumers, particularly those from low-income households, affecting their ability to afford this essential staple.

Despite the surge of the supply of imported rice, the price of rice remained expensive, affecting both consumers and farmers. Participant No. 4 conveyed “Nagsitaasan ang presyo ng mga bigas na galing sa ibang bansa. Wala kaming nakikita na mababang presyo ng bigas kahit pa nabibili lang ang aming palay sa murang halaga.” These underscore the discrepancy between the intended outcomes of the law and the real-world challenges faced by both farmers and consumers in navigating the rice market dynamics.

These impacts say a lot about the unintended consequences of the RTL, which makes the program to be in question. Amidst these negative effects, participant No. 8 said “Mahal na yung bigas, sana maibalik ang NFA rice sa merkado.” NFA Rice is a low-quality yet less expensive rice previously available in the market. The recipients specifically mentioned that the rice they got had an odor, was not white, was becoming dark or yellowish, was rough, and had broken grains. According to reports, the rice was not of “good quality. (Hernando-Malipot, 2023) Hoping for its presence in the market despite its compromised quality to save from purchase from its cheaper price just speaks volumes about the surge in the price of available rice in the market.

Price reductions for palay adversely impact farmers' income, particularly the modest farmers. (Vertudes, 2020) Reducing poverty in the Philippines largely depends on keeping the price of rice low enough for the impoverished to afford the goods. An enormous amount of the income of impoverished households is spent on rice; a rise in the price of rice corresponds to a decrease in their actual incomes. (Pandey, 2010)

### ***C. Food security***

The importation of rice into the local market has had a profound impact on food security as it significantly increased the availability of rice. Since the private sector imported 1.4 million metric tons of rice in the first four months of this year and continues to do so, the overall supply of rice has become sufficient. (Sec. Dominguez, 2019). However, despite the rice supply adequacy brought about the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law and the rice importation that has emanated from it, the local farmers, who are also

considered as consumers, are experiencing hardships due to the rising prices of rice. Participant No. 1 noted “Walang naging problema sa bigas nung napatupad ang batas kasi mas dumami ang pagpipilian ng mamimili. Ngunit bakit nagtataasan din ang mga presyo ng bigas. Lalong maghihirap ang mga mahihirap.” Following the implementation of the RTL, rice supply ceased to be an issue; however, the ongoing rise in rice prices raises concerns. Despite this, the economic disparity persists, with the impoverished facing worsening conditions.

The rice supply in the Philippines has been impacted by the Rice Tariffication Law in several sectors. Trends in the NFA and commercial sectors have changed noticeably, and the statistics on the overall supply of rice appear to have stabilized. (Alcuitas & Petralba, 2023) Global rice prices are erratic and have the potential to rise sharply based on exporting countries' production circumstances. (Villanueva, 2019) Overall, lower domestic rice prices as a result of the reform give rice consumers more spending power but reduce the income of rice farmers. (Balie, et. al., 2021)

#### **D. Intense financial difficulties of farmers**

The increased importation of rice led to alterations in rice prices, which has affected the revenue of the local farmers. It brought about increased competition as cheaper rice flooded the market, consequently placing downward pressure on the prices of locally produced rice. This increase in competition has led to a decline in profits for local farmers as they grapple to compete with the lower-priced imports. Participant No. 4 cited "Lugi ang kabuhayang pagsasaka kasi mura padin ang presyo ng palay."

Alongside the decreased profits, the heightening inflation also contributes to the financial hardship the farmers are facing. According to Participant No. 6, “Sa nangyayari ngayon, nagmahal din ang gastos sa pagtanim, tulad ng binhi, abono at labor.”

The rice trading sector was impacted by the rice tariffication law in two ways, it boosted competitiveness but also decreased sales of local rice, which had an impact on poverty in Mandaue City. (Matugas, et al., 2022) The fact that farmers primarily depend on their agricultural income to support themselves and their families means that these financial difficulties have a substantial impact on rural livelihoods. Farmers find it more difficult to make ends meet and preserve their livelihoods as a result of their precarious financial status

caused by a combination of declining profits and rising expenses. The financial strain and uncertainty brought on by these economic issues therefore leave many farmers struggling to cope.

### **LOCAL FARMERS' ACTIONS OF ADJUSTMENT**

#### **A. Reduction of farmland**

The production landscape of rice in the Philippines has seen changes brought about by the implementation of RTL. One of which is the aware utilization of plots or land intended for rice growing by the local farmers for a subsequent cut in production cost, given that the influx of imported rice has been reigning over the market since. Being faced with the erratic profitability and market uncertainty of their harvest, the local farmers are compelled to make tough decisions in allocating their resources. “Nagbawas po kami ng tanim, kung dati na 1-hectare ngayon kalahati na lang kasi hindi na namin sigurado kung mataas ang bentahan ng palay.”, says Participant No. 9.

Reducing the area used for rice production could help farmers make up for revenue losses brought on by falling profitability, particularly small farms that are more severely impacted by increased input costs. (Mottaleb & Mohanty, 2015) This just means that the predicaments being experienced by the farmers reflect a dire necessity to compromise certain factors of their livelihood, letting go of affordable loss, to prevent more loss.

#### **B. Use of produce for own consumption**

Filipino farmers are facing rice price fluctuations as a result of the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law. By liberalizing the importation of rice in the Philippines, farmers are confronted with challenges in disposing of their rice harvests insulated with its uncertain marketability. As an adjustment strategy, they are compelled to convert their rice harvests, which were initially intended for commercial purposes, into their own households' consumption. Participants No. 1, 3, and 4 expressed that they are setting aside their harvested rice for their own family's consumption so that they won't need to take money out of their pockets to buy rice anymore. “Tuwing may ani lagi ako nagtatabi para sa pang araw-araw na pagkain. Kasi hindi sa lahat ng ani ay maipapabili namin ang aming palay sa mataas na halaga.” Farmers may find that putting rice aside for their usage helps lessen the effects of increased rice prices. (Galero, et al., 2013) This shows that the local

farmers are making it a point to save as much as they can, especially amid rice price volatility, which reflects the resilience of local farmers.

### ***C. Setting aside rice harvest for personal consumption***

In response to the unpredictable state of the rice market encouraged by the fluctuating price of rice, the local farmers are making smart decisions to shield themselves from these ramifications of RTL. Setting aside rice harvests as a stock buffer for their consumption is proving to be an effective coping mechanism for them to secure a stable source of food for their families. By prioritizing self-consumption, farmers reduce their reliance on the market for rice procurement, thereby insulating themselves from the adverse effects of sudden price hikes or food shortages. Citing Participants No. 1, 3, and 4 once again when it's the harvesting season, they make sure to set aside rice for our consumption. "[Kami ay] magtatanim ng palay para lang sa pang araw-araw ng konsumo." This exhibits the resilience of Filipino farmers in the face of challenges in terms of food security.

### ***D. Planting different crops as an alternative to rice***

Local farmers in the Philippines are implementing an innovative approach to address the difficulties brought about by the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), which is by expanding their crop diversification beyond just rice. This change is being driven by the farmers' necessity to mitigate the negative effects of the RTL on their livelihoods. Farmers may spread their risks, reach new markets, and use their experience to cultivate high-value crops by increasing the range of crops they grow. The goal is to increase resilience to market uncertainties and price volatility brought on by the RTL, as well as to create new revenue streams and lessen the vulnerabilities associated with rice-centric agriculture.

"Bukod sa palay nagtatanim din kami ng kamoteng kahoy, gabi at iba pang gulay na binibenta din naming sa merkado.", says Participant No. 2.

"Ibang produkto na ang aming itatanim kasi mahina na ang kita sa pagsasaka.", says Participant No. 7.

In the Eastern Gangetic Plains of India, crop diversification—such as adding legumes and vegetables—proves to be a successful and sustainable substitute for conventional rice production. (Upadhaya, et al., 2022) Diversification of crops is becoming

prevalent and proving effective in rejuvenating the livelihood of farmers and the profitability that comes with it.

### **LOCAL FARMERS' FACILITATING FACTORS OF ADJUSTMENT**

#### ***Storage of rice and consumption of own produce***

Amidst the negative implications of the Rice tariffication Law to the local farmers, an adaptation from it depicts significance to the lives of these farmers as, more often, it is the only livelihood they grew up doing, thus the only livelihood they know to support their families. Some of the coping mechanisms they were able to live by were crop diversification and appropriation of their rice produce for self-consumption. Participant No. 1 lamented, "Tuwing may ani lagi ako nagtatabi para sa pang araw-araw na pagkain. Kasi hindi sa lahat ng ani ay maipapabili namin ang aming palay sa mataas na halaga." This strategy enables them to ensure food security within their families amidst the rice market and price conditions. Another participant also lamented that if he can't make up for his farming expenses, he may ultimately stop farming. Meanwhile, others have expressed their realization of crop diversification where they farm other crops than rice to diversify their source of income. Participant No. 2 shared "Bukod sa palay nagtatanim din kami ng kamoteng kahoy, gabi at iba pang gulay na binibenta din naming sa merkado." Doing so allows them to generate profit as well as maximize the potential of their land.

Pandey, et. al., 2010 suggest that by developing and disseminating improved agricultural technologies, productivity can be increased. This increase in productivity is crucial for lowering the cost of rice production, which in turn can help stabilize or even decrease rice prices in the long term.

### **LOCAL FARMERS' HINDERING FACTORS FOR ADJUSTMENT**

#### ***Decrease in farmers' income***

The implications of the Rice Tariffication Law on local farmers led to the loss of revenue, in summary. Aside from the economic strain that it brought about, local farmers struggle with the underlying implication of such loss like covering the farming expenses, repaying their loans, and difficulty in providing for their households. Farmers who are affected by this implication are at risk of accumulating debts, worsening their financial difficulties. One potential factor that may have led them here is their lack of awareness about the law and its

possible ramifications, if only they knew, they could have made preparations to fight against the negative impacts that the law may exude. Many farmers are heavily dependent on rice farming as an avenue to generate income. Therefore, this loss in their revenue is making them vulnerable to economic fluctuations, especially in the agriculture industry. Participant No. 8 expressed “Kaunti nalang yung kita namin. Sana maramdaman din namin ditto sa probinsya ang mga serbisyong ipinapatupad ng batas para saaming magsasaka.”

The falling profitability of rice farming among Filipino farmers is attributed to the Rice Tariffication Law, leading to inflation, profit loss, and decreased crop yields, impacting their economic stability. (Nueva, et al., 2022) The economic strain that the local farmers are experiencing underlines the challenges they go through in the face of the law’s havoc, which emphasizes the urgent need for support and intervention to reduce rural poverty and maintain agricultural livelihoods.

**COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION PLAN FOR LOCAL FARMERS**

The Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) brings about significant changes in the food security of the Philippines. It’s crucial to make sure farmers understand what this law means for them so they can navigate the challenges and opportunities attached to it. Letting Filipinos become well-informed, especially the local rice farmers, of this law and its possible ramifications will, likewise, allow farmers to make more informed

decisions when it comes to their agricultural ventures. Moreover, the provision of an extensive training program, relevant to agriculture, and agricultural resources will be substantial in supporting them as they embark on another agricultural venture. Providing them with access to expert knowledge related to diversifying and reprocessing their produce will also greatly enhance and add to their abilities, empowering them that they can do more than just what they know and do.

By focusing on getting farmers involved and informed, ultimately because they are on the frontline of the law’s impacts, the Department of Agriculture, and its attached agencies can help build a stronger, inclusive, and more sustainable agricultural industry that benefits everyone.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To provide local farmers with access to useful resources that can help them cope from the ramifications of the Rice Tariffication Law,
- To empower local farmers in becoming innovative by means of knowledge sharing.
- To enhance the abilities of local farmers by means of providing them trainings about new market trends.
- To encourage local farmers to initiate actions in order to address the challenges that they, alongside their farms, face in the midst of market fluctuations brought about by the Rice Tariffication Law.
- Overall, to capacitate local farmers to become competitive and adaptive amidst evolving local and global rice farming dynamics.

Activities	Objectives	Resources Needed	Person Responsible	Time Frame	Participants	Measurable Outcomes
Rice Tariffication Law Information Campaigns	To provide comprehensive seminar sessions to educate local farmers about the key provisions and objectives of RTL to allow for more informed decision-making.	Pamphlets, Tarpaulins, Social Media Accounts, Internet	Department of Agriculture	All year round	Local Farmers	This will raise the level of awareness and comprehension of the local farmers about the law, which will enable them to devise strategies that can help them alleviate its effect on their livelihood.
Extensive Training Programs on Agricultural Livelihood Diversification	To provide local farmers with practical solutions that can benefit them in terms of diversifying their source of income utilizing hands-on training, e.g. livestock and poultry.	Venue, Projector, Sounds, Resource Speaker, and Stipend	Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies.	All year round	Local Farmers	Farmers will have ample knowledge of other facets of agricultural livelihood. This will allow them to explore new agricultural ventures.
Provision of Agricultural Inputs and Equipment to Farmers	To empower local farmers by supplying them with essential agricultural resources to start their new venture effectively.	Seedlings, Farming Equipment, Irrigation, and Networks	Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies.	All year round	Local Farmers	A supply of agricultural resources will enable farmers to proactively commit to their new agricultural endeavors.

Provision of Value-Adding Practices Training	To empower local farmers into reprocessing their produce to create a new finished product, thus adding better value to their craft.	Processing and Packaging Equipment, Storage Facilities, Capital, Resource Expert	Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies,	All year round	Local Farmers and other laborers for food processing	Farmers will be able to convert their main crops of other diversified products into new finished product, which they can sell at better value.
Provision of Access to Affordable Credits	To enhance the agricultural resiliency of local farmers to enable them to invest in their farms.	Financial Resource, Human Resource, Finance Facility,				Providing farmers an access to low to no interest credit options will enable them to invest in their farms, manage risks better, and withstand market fluctuations.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After careful analysis of the results, the researcher came up with the following significant findings: (1) The implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law has affected local farmers in more ways than one including: (a) Rice Production. They are deliberately choosing to either halt or reduce the size of their production to prepare if ever economic ramifications persist so as not to lose more revenue. (b) Price of Rice. Even with a continuous supply of rice and the unhusked rice being less expensive, the price of rice still increases. (c) Food Security. With the implementation of RTL, the supply of rice becomes adequate. (d) Rural Livelihood. The implementation of the RTL caused detrimental effects on the livelihood and profitability of rice farming. (2) According to the participants, they are practicing certain adjustments in the form of diversifying their crops like planting vegetables so they can have more than one source of income aside from rice farming. In addition, they also allocate rice for self-consumption during harvest for their households to secure food supply for their own family and subsequently avoid buying rice in the market that is facing erratic price hikes. (3) The diversification of agricultural products is possible to execute as an alternative to the now unprofitable rice farming as it may potentially improve the income generation of the local farmers. (4) A community-based action plan that would capacitate local farmers to become competitive and adaptive with the evolving local and global rice farming dynamics.

With the above findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: (1) The Rice Tariffication Law has multifaceted effects on the local farmers, particularly in their rice production, price of rice, food security, and their rural livelihood. (2) The participants are carrying out their coping mechanisms to adjust to the effects of the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law, such as crop diversification and converting harvested rice into their household consumption. (3) The participants shared strategies, following their practice,

that can be upheld to sustain agricultural growth, development, and resilience amidst the evolving local and global dynamics of the rice trade. (4) A community-based action plan that will guide local farmers to be adaptive with the evolving local and global rice farming dynamics. In light of the conclusions drawn from the presented findings, the following recommendations of the researcher are as follow: (1) A broader scope, a larger number of participants, and more intensive research may be useful and be considered to acquire a more in-depth understanding of the implications of the Rice Tariffication Law to the local farmers. (2) Formulation of well-thought-of agricultural policies and their extensive implementation, and the provision of start-up materials and equipment from the Government, which will benefit the local farmers, will be useful in pursuing and encouraging the affected farmers' farming alternatives. (3) Extensive seminars about the diversification of agricultural products not only in terms of crops, but also in other sectors of agriculture like poultry and livestock are encouraged to provide sufficient knowledge, awareness, and options to enable the displaced farmers to get back on their feet once again and to invigorate their passion in farming as well. (4) The proposed community-based action plan be adopted to find out its effectiveness.

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