

Philippines launches Agricultural and Fisheries Logistics Office to boost food security

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Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) has launched the Agricultural and Fisheries Logistics Office (AFLO) to tackle inefficiencies in the farm-to-market supply chain and ensure food security under Department Order 01.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. said AFLO will address critical challenges like post-harvest losses, high market prices, and logistical bottlenecks, including poor infrastructure and insufficient cold storage facilities.

“AFLO is key to building a resilient and sustainable food supply chain while improving profitability for farmers and fishers. This will also ensure more affordable food for consumers and raw materials for industries,” said Sec. Tiu Laurel.

AFLO will develop a real-time logistics coordination and monitoring system to track agricultural products, improve distribution, and reduce inefficiencies. The system aims to enhance transparency, curb smuggling, and ensure traceability in the supply chain.

The Office will also oversee infrastructure projects, such as cold storage warehouses, food hubs, and distribution centers, to facilitate timely and cost-effective food distribution.

To modernize the supply chain, AFLO plans to adopt advanced technologies, including AI-driven tools and machine learning, to minimize losses and optimize logistics. The Office will also strengthen collaboration among government agencies, local government units, and private sector partners to streamline transport, improve market linkages, and lower costs.

Partnerships with the Philippine Ports Authority, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority will enhance agricultural product handling through ports.

AFLO is also tasked with establishing crisis management protocols to prepare the agricultural supply chain for disruptions like natural disasters or pandemics.

“The creation of AFLO is a vital step in modernizing agriculture and fisheries. By addressing inefficiencies and promoting sustainability, we can secure our food future and advance the sector’s development,” Sec. Tiu Laurel added.

The initiative aligns with the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, aiming to transform Philippine agriculture into a globally competitive sector.