

## Philippine Space Agency, Hungary's MATE ink pact to boost agri-tech collaboration

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The Philippine Space Agency has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences to strengthen collaboration in agricultural research, education and technology development, marking a step forward in integrating space science with farming and environmental monitoring.

The agreement, formalised on April 20, was signed by PhilSA Ad Interim Director General Gay Jane P. Perez and MATE Rector Csaba Gyuricza, and focuses on advancing the application of space science and technology in agriculture. The partnership aims to facilitate the exchange of students, researchers and technical personnel, while promoting joint research initiatives and knowledge-sharing between the two institutions.

Under the collaboration, both organisations will work together on developing models for agricultural mapping, monitoring and assessment using satellite data. The initiative will also explore pilot projects in both countries, aimed at enhancing precision agriculture, improving crop monitoring and strengthening climate resilience in farming systems.

PhilSA said the partnership underscores the growing role of academia in driving innovation within the space ecosystem, particularly in addressing real-world challenges in agriculture and environmental sustainability. The collaboration is also expected to expand access to technical expertise, research infrastructure and international exposure for students and scientists.

MATE highlighted that the partnership aligns with its broader mission of applying scientific knowledge to support farmers, rural communities and sustainable development. The collaboration is expected to enable joint work in areas such as climate adaptation, digital agriculture and data-driven farming solutions.

The agreement also reflects strengthening bilateral ties between the Philippines and Hungary, particularly in the domain of space and agricultural cooperation, with both sides signalling intent to deepen engagement through academic exchange and joint innovation initiatives.

Officials from both countries, including representatives from the diplomatic community, attended the signing ceremony, reinforcing the strategic importance of the partnership in advancing sustainable and technology-driven agriculture.