

September 13, 1999

**AGREEMENT ON THE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
AGRICULTURE & OTHER RELATED AREAS BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People' s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "two Parties"),

Desiring to further enhance the existing friendly relations between the People' s Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect,

Recalling the 1978 Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the two countries,

Recognizing the importance of agriculture in national development and in the improvement of the standard of living of the people in each country,

Cognizant of the need to undertake collaborative endeavors in agriculture and related fields to propel their respective economies up,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWED

Article I
General Provisions

The two Parties shall promote scientific and technical, economic and trade cooperation in the field of agriculture in light of laws and relevant regulations of their respective countries.

Article II
Areas of Cooperation

1. The scope of cooperation may be in the areas of plant and animal science, food processing, crop technology, irrigation and water resources management, waste management, organic farming, agricultural mechanization, inter alia, and shall include the following;

1.1 Exchange of professionals, scientists, and technicians for study, observation, and training in agriculture, fisheries, and agriculture-related fields;

1.2 Exchange of plant and germplasm subject to existing laws, regulations, and policies of both countries;

1.3 Exchange of scientific and technical information on agriculture and related fields;

1.4 Collaborative studies on mutually agreed specific areas of cooperation;

1.5 Organization of workshops, symposia, training courses and exhibitions on subjects of mutual interests;

1.6 Trade and agricultural vertical integration promotion

2. The Parties shall encourage the involvement of concerned agencies the academe, scientific and business communities of both countries to generate broad interest and increased activities, including joint agribusiness ventures.

Enterprises from both countries will cooperate in the processing and assembling of farm machines. The Chinese side will encourage its financial institutions to facilitate the provision of concessional credit arrangements based on business contracts signed by Philippine and Chinese enterprises.

Article III Implementation Arrangement

The Parties agree to negotiate specific project arrangements in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement to implement the aforementioned areas of cooperation.

Article IV Joint Committee

1. To ensure the implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Joint Committee comprised of an equal number of representatives from both sides as may be agreed upon through diplomatic channels. The lead coordinating and responsible agencies shall be as follows:

For the Republic of the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture,

For the People' s Republic of China, the Ministry of Agriculture.

2. The Joint Committee shall formulate and submit policy recommendations, with a view to promoting the development of agricultural and related fields of both countries. It shall also be responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects identified under this Agreement.

3. As may be necessary, the Joint Committee may create "Working Group(s)" for specific areas. For this purpose, the Joint Committee shall determine the procedure and other guidelines to be followed by the "Working Group(s)" to ensure efficiency.

4. A liaison secretary from both sides shall be designated in order to coordinate with concerned agencies and deal with daily and routine work of the Joint Committee and any Working Group thus established.

5. The Joint Committee shall meet every two years alternately in the Philippines and China with a representative from the host country as chairman of the meeting. Whenever necessary, an interim meeting may be held subject to agreement between the Parties, through diplomatic channels. The liaison secretaries from both sides shall meet in the year when the Joint Committee does not meet, alternately in the Philippines and China to exchange views on related subjects.

6. The agenda of the meeting will include the drafting of the working plans and a review of the progress of the implementation of projects undertaken pursuant to this Agreement.