

Whereas, the Philippines is the biggest rice importer, buying as much as 2.47 million tons of the staple to fill its requirements for 2010¹;

Whereas, the International Rice Research Institute warned that government must work ahead of time to solve the 10% to 15% expected shortfall in rice supply next year in consideration of the 2% annual growth in the country's population;

Whereas, in milling *palay* to brown rice, there is a 10% additional yield compared to white rice which is equivalent to the Philippines' rice production deficit;

Whereas, because of low demand, brown rice is currently more expensive and not available in many markets;


Whereas, brown rice production reduces the power demands of milling by as much as 65% because the polishing and whitening steps are eliminated;

Whereas, when the polishing and whitening steps are eliminated, the milling time is also shortened, labor is less and the cost of equipment is much lower because the miller does not have to install polishers and whiteners;

Whereas, the State, in order to address the country's demand for rice and at the same time promote better health, should support the production and use of brown rice by utilizing the appropriate branches of government like the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology and other appropriate departments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on ways to support the farming and production of brown rice in the Philippines with the end in view of curbing the rice production deficit in the country.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator

¹ <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/business/09/17/10/after-glut-nfa-now-sees-rice-shortage-next-year>