

BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES

The Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) is a four-year project that aims to increase agricultural productivity by improving sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) in production and management of cold chain and supply chains and to expand trade of agricultural products by improving the Government of the Philippines' (GOP's) regulatory agencies' capacity to manage risk-based systems, promote awareness of biotechnology, enhance regulatory standards and processes, enhance domestic and export linkages, and build the capacity of the

FAST FACTS

DONOR: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

TIMEFRAME: October 2019 – July 2024

FUNDING LEVEL: \$8.3 million

LOCATION: Philippines

CONTACT INFORMATION: Cathrine Schwader, Sr.
Program Officer (cathrine.schwader@winrock.org)

private sector to leverage investment. B-SAFE is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under its Food for Progress (FFPr) program.

This approach is built on two distinct, but interrelated pillars: (1) GOP regulatory agencies' capacity in risk-based SPS systems; and (2) SPS-compliant supply chain linkages.

Winrock will use funds from the monetization of 23,000 metric tons of American soybean meal to implement this project.

Program Goal

Food safety – the proper handling, preparation and storage of food – is imperative in preventing food-borne illness and disease outbreaks. B-SAFE's ultimate goal is to improve the trade of safe, wholesome food and agricultural products. It does so by working with the GOP in providing agencies with the tools and information needed to implement evidence-based risk analysis and helping the government meet obligations under domestic law as well as international food safety and trade protocols. B-SAFE will improve private sector access to services, information and relationships to access food safety-conscious export and domestic markets.

Activities

From October 2019 – July 2024, Winrock will work with the GOP to achieve the project’s goals through 5 inter-connected activities:

- **Conduct Sanitary and Phytosanitary Gap Assessment and Benchmark Capacity Needs**
B-SAFE is undertaking a participatory needs assessment to identify capacity building priorities and technical assistance needs of the Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as other stakeholders in SPS systems. B-SAFE will assess the alignment of Filipino SPS regulations with international standards.
- **Enhance Government of Philippines Capacity in Risk-Based Systems**
B-SAFE will develop capacity-building programs for the DA and FDA that support the adoption of international and risk-based standards to aid trade facilitation while being responsive to emerging food borne health risks and pest and disease threats.
- **Support Biotechnology Decision-Making and Awareness-Building**
B-SAFE will facilitate the development of a streamlined review/approval process through targeted technical assistance to departments involved in permitting and renewal and support inter-departmental coordination and streamlining.

Support from our Government of Philippines Partners:

“THE DEPARTMENT SEES THE VALUE OF B-SAFE PROJECT, ESPECIALLY ITS POTENTIAL TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND ASSIST PHILIPPINES’ ECONOMIC RECOVERY.”

-ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARIA LUMEN ISLETA,
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- **Build Technical Capacity of the Private Sector to Meet International Standards**
B-SAFE will strengthen the capacity of the private sector to develop and manage SPS-compliant supply chains and adhere to the standards set by the Food Safety Act of 2013 through targeted technical assistance and incentivizing investments in supply chain upgrades.
- **Build Cold Chain Systems**
Building on Winrock’s work in the Philippine Cold Chain Project (PCCP), Winrock will provide cold chain capacity building by developing business-decision support tools, grants targeting small infrastructure and new technologies, trainings, and forums to showcase the initiatives.

Results

By the end of the four-year B-SAFE Project, Winrock will achieve the following anticipated results:

- **56,028 individuals** benefitting from USDA assistance (directly or indirectly)
- **17 new public-private partnerships** formed
- **\$1.1 M in new public and private sector investment** leveraged
- **6 policies, regulations, and/or administrative procedures** in development as a result of USDA assistance



For more info, visit www.winrock.org/project/boosting-food-safety-in-the-philippines