

## Philippines Agriculture Department partners with Megawide to modernize farm infrastructure

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The Department of Agriculture has signed a landmark agreement with Megawide Construction Corp to accelerate the modernization of the country's agricultural sector through integrated infrastructure development and private sector participation.

The memorandum of understanding outlines a broad collaboration focused on improving agricultural productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and strengthening long-term food security through investments in modern farm systems, logistics infrastructure, and renewable energy integration.

Under the agreement, Megawide will support the rollout of agro-solar farming systems that combine crop production with renewable energy generation, reflecting growing interest in climate-smart agricultural infrastructure across Southeast Asia. The partnership also includes plans for food-processing facilities and food terminals intended to improve storage, logistics, and distribution efficiency throughout agricultural value chains.

The Department of Agriculture said the initiative is expected to significantly reduce post-harvest losses, a longstanding challenge that has affected farmer profitability and weakened competitiveness in both domestic and export markets. Officials added that improved infrastructure and supply chain integration could help create more stable and commercially viable agricultural operations.

The collaboration also seeks to promote clustered farming enterprises, enabling smallholder farmers to pool resources, access modern technologies, and transition toward larger-scale agribusiness models. Policymakers view the approach as part of a broader effort to strengthen rural economies and attract greater private investment into agriculture.

The initiative aligns with the Philippine government's wider strategy of repositioning farmers as agri-entrepreneurs while integrating agriculture with energy, logistics, and industrial systems. Authorities also expect the project to support the development of higher-value branded agricultural products with stronger market access potential.

Industry observers note that the partnership reflects a growing regional trend toward public-private collaboration in agricultural modernization as governments seek to improve food system resilience, sustainability, and rural economic growth amid rising climate and supply chain pressures.