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Korea-Philippines partnership launches unified agricultural data platform

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The Agriculture-based Central Data Ecosystem (AbCDE) 1.0 has officially entered its pilot phase in the Philippines, marking a major step forward in the countryâ??s digital transformation of agricultural governance through a partnership with the Republic of Korea.

Developed under Koreaâ??s Official Development Assistance (ODA) program through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) and the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion & Information Service (EPIS), the initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture as part of a four-year modernization project running from 2023 to 2026.

AbCDE 1.0 is designed as an integrated digital platform that consolidates, validates, and analyzes beneficiary data across various agricultural programs of the Department of Agriculture. The system aims to streamline more than 200 existing digital initiatives into a unified and interoperable data ecosystem.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the platform supports national efforts toward science- and information-driven governance, aligning with broader digitalization goals under the governmentâ??s development agenda. Officials noted that the system is expected to enhance efficiency in agricultural service delivery while improving data accuracy for policy planning and implementation.

The new platform enables farmers to register and update their information more efficiently while allowing government agencies to reduce duplicate records and ensure that subsidies and interventions reach intended beneficiaries more effectively.

AbCDE introduces three core digital services: the Profiling Service, which uses AI-assisted identity verification and facial recognition to improve data accuracy; the Intervention Service, which simplifies agricultural assistance delivery through

procurement, voucher, and e-cash mechanisms; and the Analytic Data Service, which provides real-time agricultural data and statistics to support decision-making.

The project has already begun rolling out core modules in selected pilot regions starting April 2026, with full implementation targeted within the project timeline.

Officials emphasized that AbCDE 1.0 is designed not only as a technological upgrade but also as a governance reform tool that strengthens transparency and accountability in public service delivery. By improving data integrity and system integration, the platform aims to ensure that government support reaches farmers and fisherfolk more quickly, fairly, and efficiently.

With its launch, AbCDE 1.0 represents a significant milestone in the Philippinesâ?? ongoing efforts to build a more digital-ready, data-driven, and resilient agricultural sector, supported through international cooperation and innovation-led development.