

U.S. investments in biotech fuel Philippine agricultural boom

Biotechnology in the Philippines is so important that a new biotechnology center is being built to support the Philippine Department of Agriculture. The project is being funded mainly by the U.S. Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act...

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Biotechnology...allows farmers to be more efficient and environmentally conscious by growing more crops resistant to pests and diseases on less land. This [scientific advancement](#) is essential...as almost half of Filipinos work in [agriculture](#) and the country is experiencing significant population growth.

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“The goal of constructing this center is to generate [improved technologies](#), increase productivity, and enhance commercial value of DA’s priority crops such as rice, abaca, coconut, white and yellow corn, cotton, cassava, sweet potato, yam, tomato, and eggplant,” Dr. Roel R. Suralta, head of DA’s Crop Biotechnology Center.

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Biotechnology in the Philippines increased the [agriculture market](#) by \$642 million, and 14 climate change resistant rice strains have been created in recent years. The strains in-use now only take 5 to 7 years to breed as opposed to 10 to 12, and such results provide international hope for feeding ever-growing populations and combating a changing climate.

Read full, original article: [Importance of US Foreign Aid: Biotechnology in the Philippines](#)