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| Title : | Agricultural Development Act Ch |
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| Legislative : | Promulgated on September 3, 1973. Amendment to Articles 3, 20, 21, 23, 24 and addition of Articles 21-1, 26-1 promulgated on January 30, 1980. Amendment to all Articles promulgated on August 1, 1983. Amendment to Article 2 promulgated on January 6, 1986. Amendment to all Articles promulgated on January 26, 2000. Amendment to Articles 12, 18, 25, 71 promulgated on January 30, 2002. Amendment to Articles 3, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20~22, 26, 27, 30~32, 36, 37, 39, 43, 52, 54, 55, 63~65, 67, 69, 74, 77 and addition of Articles 8-1, 9-1, 22-1, 25-1, 67-1, 67-2 and deletion of Articles 11, 14 on February 7, 2003. Amendment to Articles 31, 39 promulgated on January 10, 2007. Amendment to Article 27 promulgated on January 29, 2007. Article 38-1 inserted, the revised Act President Hua-tzong Yi-tzu-09900331471 and promulgated, November 8, 2010 |
| Content : | Chapter I General Provisions Article 1 The Agricultural Development Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”) is enacted to ensure the sustainable developments of agriculture, to address agricultural globalization and liberalization, to promote reasonable utilization of farmlands, to adjust the structures of agricultural enterprises, to stabilize the sale of agricultural production, to advance the income and welfare of farmers and to promote the living standards of farmers. Matters not provided herein shall be governed by other applicable laws. Article 2 For the purposes of implementing the Act, the term “competent authority” denotes the Council of Agriculture, the Executive Yuan at the central government, the city government, and the county or municipal government at county or municipality level. Article 3 For the purposes of implementing the Act, the following terms are defined as follows: 1. Agriculture: The utilization of natural resources and agricultural materials and technology, to engage in leisure and recreation, production and distribution of farming, forestry, aquaculture and animal husbandry. 2. Agricultural products: Articles produced from agricultural activities. 3. Farmers: Natural persons who directly engage in agricultural activities/affairs. 4. Family farm: A farm that is engaging in agricultural affairs on the basis of a co-habitation household unit. 5. Recreational agriculture: A kind of farming management that applies landscapes of countryside, ecosystem and environmental resources, integrate the production of |

- agriculture, forestry, fishery and animal husbandry, agricultural activities, cultures
of farm villages and life of peasant families, provide citizen recreation and enhance
the objective of experiencing agriculture and farm villages.
6. Recreational farm: The farm that is managed for recreational agriculture activities.
7. Farmers' organization: Farmers' associations, fishermen's associations, agricultural cooperations and irrigation associations that are consisted of farmers as members of
those organizations in terms of the Farmers' Association Law, the Fishermen's Association Law, the Agricultural Cooperative Law and the General Provisions of the Organization of Irrigation Associations.
8. Agricultural corporation: a company that engages in agricultural production, or
agricultural experimentation and research activities.
9. Agricultural research and experiment institute: Any institute, school or agricultural
juristic person that engages in agricultural research and experiment.
10. Agricultural land: A land, that is not designated as a urban land or as a land that is
in the scope of urban agricultural zones or reserved zones, is used for the purposes as
follows in accordance with relevant laws:
(a) Farming, forestry, aquaculture, animal husbandry and conservation.
(b) Farmhouses, barns, storage and warehousing facilities, solar yards, collecting sites,
farm road, irrigation, drainage systems and other agricultural use that are seen as an
integral part of farming managements
(c) Warehouses, freezing/chilling facilities, agricultural machinery centers, sites of
manufacture of silk/breeding silkworms, collecting sites and inspection stations that
are directly provided for agricultural use/purposes, and the properties of which are
owned by farmers' organizations or cooperative farms.
11. Arable land: An agricultural or a grazing land that is attributed to specific
agricultural zones, general agricultural zones, hillside conservation zones and forest
zones as delimited in terms of the Regional Planning Law.
12. Agricultural use: The use of agricultural lands where the agricultural lands, in
accordance with relevant laws, are actually provided for farming, forestry,
aquaculture, livestock breeding, conservation and establishing agriculturally related
facilities or farmhouses. The use of those agricultural lands that the circumstances
such as fallowing, recuperating and suspended practices on the lands or uncontrollable
forces of the lands are conducted in accordance with relevant laws, and those
lands are not actually provided for farming, forestry, aquaculture and livestock
breeding, are also within the scope of the definition.
13. Specialized agricultural production zone: A zone that is established in terms of
relevant laws regulating the types of agricultural production/products, and is set up
for production, manufacture, storage and distribution.
14. Lease of agriculture land: An act in which the landlord leases out part

or the whole

of his/her agricultural land to other parties for agricultural farming purposes.

15. Commissioned farming: An act in which other parties are commissioned to engage in only

part or the whole of the farming production procedures of self-operating family farms.

16. Cooperation group: An agricultural organization which is voluntarily formed and

managed by farmers together whose lands are adjacent or close to each other, or manage

the same type of agricultural activities.

17. Delivery and distribution of agricultural products: Operations of agricultural

products such as collection, classification, grading, packaging, storage,

freezing/chilling, processing, inspection, transportation and trading.

18. Extension of agriculture: An act of applying the means such as agricultural resources,

broadcasts, development of manpower and administration services to provide farmers

opportunities of life-long education, assist in utilizing local resources and develop

the practices of local industries.

Article 4

In ensuring the effective implementation of this Act, the related government authorities at each level shall prepare annual administration plans and budgets listing the related projects, and actively promote for such effective implementation.

The central government shall subsidize to fill in the need as presented in the budgets of the preceding paragraph when it sees necessary.

Article 5

The competent authorities shall improve information facilities and manpower to promote information compiling of agricultural management and conduct statistics and analysis of agricultural resources, production and distribution. In the same way, it shall guide farmers and farmers' organization to build up an environment of agricultural data application and strengthen data collection.

Local government at township level shall appoint officials to be in charge of conducting surveys and compiling statistics on agricultural resources as well as production and distribution information. The said information shall be submitted to the competent authorities at the respective level for further analysis and processing.

Article 6

Competent authorities may appoint officials to take necessary measures in performing special duties such as protection of agricultural resources, disaster salvage, and preventing blight, pest and diseases of aquatic creatures.

Article 7

In strengthening the organizational functions of farmers' associations and securing farmers' rights and interests, farmers' associations of each type may jointly establish nationwide unions in accordance with relevant

laws.

Chapter 2 Utilization and Management of Agricultural Lands

Article 8

Competent authorities may formulate general plans for utilization of agricultural lands and establish an adequate mode of use on the basis of the natural environments of agricultural lands, social and economical factors, technical conditions and farmers' vulnerability, and in coordination with the use of any piece of agricultural land as delimited pursuant to the land-use zoning regulations stipulated in the Regional Planning Law and the Urban Planning Law.

The districts established pursuant to the general planning for the use of agricultural land of the preceding paragraph shall undergo a general review at least every five years, and necessary modifications shall be carried out in accordance with the changes of local developments.

Article 8-1

Agricultural lands may be exempted from acquiring construction licenses for setting up temporary and non-fixed foundation structures made of bamboos, wood, straw, plastic materials, angle iron, steel wire fabrics or other materials for the purposes of agricultural production. City or county/municipality governments may take into consideration the needs of local agricultural practices and enact regulations reviewing the setting-up of temporary and non-fixed foundation structures and structures in relation to agriculture production on agricultural lands.

Prior application for the uses of fixed foundation agricultural structures is required for constructing such structures on agricultural lands, and then application for construction licenses for such construction is required in terms of relevant laws. In the event that the surface area of the said structure is not more than 45 square meters and the structure has only one floor, exemption of application for the license may be granted. Agricultural lands may be exempted from acquiring construction licenses if prior to the implementation of this revised Act of January 13, 2003, the fixed foundation agriculture structures have already been built on agricultural lands, the surface area of each structure is not more than 250 square meters and the structures are safe for uses.

The provisions regulating the uses of the agricultural structures as stated in the preceding paragraph, the types, surface areas and heights of constructing the said structures, application procedures and other items to be complied with, are to be formulated by the central competent authority in concert with the concerned authorities.

The competent authorities formulate the standard design of the agricultural structures that are mostly demanded by farmers and can enhance the values added to farming practices. Those persons who adopt such design may be exempted from the design, supervision and construction of architects or construction from construction firms.

Article 9

In maintaining the needs of agricultural development, the central competent authority shall coordinate overall development principles of territory plan, regulate the total amount of agricultural lands in demand and the quantity of agricultural lands of change, and comment and criticize such practices regularly.

Article 9 -1

In order to promote the development of rural areas and take into account the effective utilization of agricultural land resources and maintenance of production environment, the competent authority at the city/county level in concert with the concerned authorities may, based on the plans of local agricultural land resources and the needs of the developments of rural areas as a whole as well as the approval of the agricultural landowners, plan and exploit the agricultural lands through re-division of lands land re-division or levy of subdivision and section.

The central authorities shall hold a consultation conference to enact about the planning, coordination, practice and other related aspects of foregoing agricultural land utilization and exploitation.

Article 10

The delimitation or change of agricultural lands to non-agricultural purposes shall not affect the integrity of production environments and shall be subject to the prior approval of the competent authorities. Requirements and procedures for the aforesaid change shall be subject to the governance of applicable laws which are yet to be drafted.

Matters with respect to the delimitation or change of agricultural lands to non-agricultural purposes prior to the taking effect of the applicable laws as stated in the preceding paragraph shall be governed by existing laws and regulations.

Article 11 Deleted.

Article 12

The change of land use as stated in the first paragraph of Article 10 shall be subject to the payment of a feedback fund based on its business nature of the land in use. The said fund shall then be submitted to the Agriculture Development Fund established by the central competent authority pursuant to Article 54 for the purposes of agricultural development and farmers' welfare.

The payment and use of the monetary or in-kind donation of feedback nature or contribution for the change of land use as already stipulated in the respective laws of the business on the said land shall be proceeded pursuant to the governing law. In cases where the land is categorized as agricultural land, the exemption of payment is only applicable to those persons who had already made the payment prior to the taking effect of this revised Act of January 4, 2000; and in all other cases, authorities concerned shall allocate half of the payment collected, both monetary and in-kind, for the purpose as stipulated in the preceding paragraph.

The regulations of the payment, appropriation, allocation and the standard of payment of the feedback funds, monetary and in-kind fund, as stated in the first two paragraphs, shall be formulated by the central competent authority in concert with other authorities concerned.

The change of land use pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 10 may be exempted from the payment of feedback fund if any of the following is satisfied:

1. Government projects of public construction or welfare facilities.
2. Government projects of development of rural areas or facilities of farmers' welfare.
3. Infrastructure or facilities in areas notified by the Ministry of

Economic Affairs as
land subsidence, or in designated remote areas or on offshore islands by
the central
competent authority.

Article 13

In promoting farmland consolidation, the competent authority of land
administration shall formulate overall planning in concert with the
agricultural and water conservancy authorities and shall coordinate in
implementing the said plan.

Article 14 Deleted.

Article 15

The competent authorities shall formulate overall planning for watershed
management in concert with other authorities concerned. It shall also
coordinate and promote the construction and the maintenance of such
agricultural projects and public facilities, such as soil and water
conservation, watershed protection and flood control, windbreaks,
agricultural lands improvement, fishing ports, agricultural access roads,
agricultural water supply, irrigation and drainage systems.

Article 16

An arable land shall not be divided if each of the divided area is less
than

point two five hectares. Exceptions are as follows.

1. In the merging with a piece of adjacent arable land through purchase,
division for the
purpose of merger is allowed. Two or more than two pieces of adjacent
lands of the same
ownership are allowed for division or merger if the total number of
lands under
registration after the act remains the same.
2. A land which is partially changed to non-arable land pursuant to
governing laws and the
unchanged part with co-ownership but separated management may be
divided.
3. An arable land which is inherited by legal successors after the
enactment of this Act
of January 4, 2000 may be divided as single ownership
4. A Co-owned arable land before the enactment of this Act of January 4,
2000 may be
divided as single ownership.
5. The land governed by the "37.5% Arable Land Rental Reduction Act" may
be divided and
owned separately by the leaser and the lessee, provided both parties
agree to terminate
the lease agreement through land division.
6. Non-agricultural land consolidation region are to be changed to serve as
farm
irrigation/drainage waterways.
7. Other lands that are deemed necessary for the implementation of land or
agricultural
policies, or for the purposes of national development, and such
necessity is approved
by the central competent authority, may then be divided.

An owner of a co-owned land, who undertakes to acquire the title of single

ownership of the land after the division of the land as stated in Items 3 and 4 of the preceding paragraph, shall obtain the other co-owner(s)' agreement(s) or a court order first. The number of the sub-divided lands may not exceed the total number of the co-owners.

Article 17

Agricultural lands which were acquired with self-owned capital or without any capitals and registered under the name of a natural person by existing registered temples, churches, churches which have been established in accordance with relevant laws, religion funds or farmers' organizations prior to the enactment of this revised Act, may re-register the ownership under the name of the temple, the church or the church which have been established in accordance with relevant laws, the religion fund or the farmers' organization within one year of the date of implementation of this revised Act of January 13, 2003.

Article 18

Farmers, who acquire agricultural lands after the enactment of this revised Act of January 4, 2000 and do not possess a farmhouse for their own use, may apply for the construction of individual farmhouses or concentrated townhouses on their own agricultural land with the approval of the competent authorities at the city or county/municipality, provided that the construction does not affect agricultural production environment and the development of farm villages.

The agricultural land of the preceding paragraph shall be ensured for agricultural use; farmhouses which are built on self-owned agricultural land may be transferred only after five years of the construction. Exceptions are such that the transfer is due to inheritance or courthouse auctions.

Farmers, who had acquired agricultural lands prior to the enactment of this revised Act of January 4, 2000 and do not possess a farmhouse for their own use, may apply for the construction of a farmhouse in accordance with related construction laws and regulations of land use. This is also applicable to farmers who had shared ownership of arable lands prior to the enactment of this revised Act of January 4, 2000, have divided the land as single ownership after the enactment of this revised Act of January 4, 2000 and do not possess a farmhouse for their own use.

The builder of the farmhouse described in the first and the preceding paragraph shall be the owner of the land where the farmhouse is situated. The farmhouse as well as the land where it is situated shall be jointly transferred or jointly mortgaged. Agricultural lands having already been applied for the construction of a farmhouse shall not be permitted for re-application of construction.

The regulations with respect to farmer' s eligibility, maximum floor area, land coverage of the farmhouse, capacity rate, maximum foundation area and height, permission conditions, application procedures, construction methods, withdrawal or annulment of permission and other related regulations shall be formulated by the Ministry of Interior in concert with the central competent authority.

The competent authorities shall provide rewards of encouragement for building farmhouses as an integral part of concentrated townhouses and shall provide necessary assistance. The measures of the said rewards and assistance shall be drafted by the central competent authority.

Article 19

In ensuring the maintenance of the agricultural production environment and avoiding the ground water and the soil pollution from adversely impacting on the health of the nationals, agricultural land which is used as waste treatment field/plant or polluting factory shall be subject to environmental impact assessment pursuant to the Environmental Impact Assessment Law.

The competent environment authorities shall provide with overall inspection and establish a data bank containing census survey information of all waste treatment fields/plants and polluting factories situated on agricultural lands. The establishers/planners/executors of these waste treatment fields/plants and factories shall install a ground water monitoring system around the waste treatment fields/plants and polluting factories, and regularly inspecting the ground water and the soil for any pollution. In the event of pollution, the owners shall be restrained from land use. They shall subsequently compensate, remove the pollutants, rehabilitate and rebuild the environment pursuant to laws and regulations with respect to cleaning polluted soil and ground water.

Article 20

Arable land lease agreements which were/are signed after the implementation of this revised Act of January 4, 2000 shall be governed by this Act; and the 37.5% Arable Land Rental Reduction Act shall not be applicable. Matters not provided in this Act shall be governed by the Land Law, the Civil Law, or other applicable laws.

Lessor and lessee, who had signed the lease contract in accordance with the 37.5% Arable Land Rental Reduction Act, or the Land Law and other applicable laws or regulations prior to the implementation of this revised Act of January 4, 2000, shall be governed by the respective law with respect to the rights and obligations, renewal, amendment and termination of the agreement, except when both parties have agreed otherwise.

The written commission agreements which were concluded before the implementation of this revised Act of January 4, 2000 shall not be subject to the regulations of the 37.5% Arable Land Rental Reduction Act. The rights and obligations shall be subject to the commission agreement throughout the duration of the contract; matters not regulated in the agreement shall be governed by this Act.

Article 21

The duration, rent and the method of rental payment of arable land lease agreements, which were/are concluded after the implementation of this revised Act of January 4, 2000, are mutually agreed upon by the lessor and the lessee, they shall not be subject to the limitation clause as stipulated in Articles 110 and 112 of the Land Law. Lease period exceeding one year without concluding any written agreement shall not be subject to Article 422 of the Civil Law.

The lease relationship of the aforesaid arable land lease agreement with the prescribed period of lease shall be extinguished upon the expiration of the prescribed period, and shall not subject to Article 451 of the Civil Law and Articles 109 and 114 of the Land Law. In the event where the parties concerned agree to terminate the lease agreement before the expiry date of the prescribed period, the lease relationship shall be extinguished at the time of termination. The other party shall be noticed of the said termination six months prior to the termination; in cases where the prescribed period of the agreement is shorter than six months, the other party shall be noticed 15 days prior to the date of the termination.

Where there is no provision with regard to the prescribed period in the arable land lease agreement, both parties to the agreement may terminate

the agreement at any time, provided that a six-month prior notice is made to the other party.

Article 22

The termination of lease relationship of arable land lease contracts as concluded after the implementation of this revised Act of January 4, 2000, upon the lessor's retrieval of arable land, is not subject to the regulations with respect to compensation paid by the lessor to the lessee in Articles 11, 63 and 77 of the Land Right Equity Act, Article 29 of the Farmland Consolidation Act and Article 27 of the Industrial Upgrading Promotion Act.

Article 22-1

In promoting circulation of agricultural lands and effective utilization, the competent authorities may guide farmers' organizations in conducting agency practices such as sale and purchase, lease and commission of agricultural lands, and encourage them with rewards.

Chapter 3 Agricultural Production

Article 23

The central competent authority shall formulate national agricultural production and distribution policies and plans, and supervise the implementation of the said polices and plans.

The formulation of the policies and plans as stated in the preceding paragraph shall take into consideration agricultural production, life and the ecosystem and assist in developing a sustainable system of agriculture.

Article 24

The central competent authority may, in concert with other authorities concerned, designate specific agricultural products or processed products to assist the proprietors with the establishment of respective industrial development fund where it is deemed necessary.

The management and utilization of the fund as stated in the preceding paragraph shall be guided and supervised by the central competent authority in concert with other authorities concerned.

Article 25

The competent authorities shall, in concert with various authorities concerned, plan agricultural production zones on the basis of the distribution of agricultural resources, the production environment and the needs of development; and depending on the market demand, provide guidance in the establishment of specialized agricultural zones of an adequate scale to planning and implementing the planned production, manufacture, storage and distribution. Government-designated public construction projects that are executed in the said special agricultural zones are eligible for subsidization or the governmental assistance in loan applications.

Article 25-1

In order to develop agricultural technology, the competent authority may provide guidance in establishing agricultural technology zones; the establishment, management and guidance of the zones shall be regulated by a specific law.

Article 26

Farmers, who voluntarily and jointly undertake agricultural practices in compliance with the specific requirements as stipulated by the competent authorities, may form cooperation groups for management. On the basis of the operation status, the competent authority may provide guidance, rewards and subsidization.

The provisions regulating requirements for establishing a cooperation group, application procedures, appraisal methods, guidance, rewards, subsidization and other items with are to be enacted by the central competent authority.

Article 27

The central competent authority shall promulgate respectively standard specifications of agricultural materials of the seed and seedling of plants, breeding animals, fertilizers, feeds, pesticides and veterinary drugs, as well as criteria for the factories/plants establishment, in order to facilitate the inspection of the said materials accordingly.

In order to elevate the quality level of agricultural products and processed products and maintain the rights and interests of consumers, the central competent authority shall carry out the certification or verification for the logo authentication system of the related products.

Article 28

The central competent authority shall formulate plans for agricultural mechanization development, guide farmers or farmers' organizations in purchasing and utilizing the agricultural machinery and further assist in loan applications or subsidization for the aforementioned purposes.

Article 29

The price of electricity, gasoline and water for powering agricultural operation shall not be higher than that of those for general industrial purposes.

Electricity fee for powering agricultural operation are not calculated in terms of progressive increment, and during the suspension period of power use, basic electricity fee is to be exempted.

The scope and standard of the use of electricity, gasoline and water for powering agricultural operation shall be formulated by the Executive Yuan.

Article 30

The competent authority shall encourage with rewards the expansion of operation scale of family farms, and shall appropriate funds for subsidization or assist in loan applications.

(c) The expansion of operation scale as stated in the preceding paragraph, operation scale may be expanded through cooperation groups, leasing from arable lands, appointment or other modes of farming.

Article 31

The penalty for illegal use of arable land shall be under the regulations of Regional Planning Law. The registration of transferring ownership of

arable land shall be under the regulations of Land Law or Civil Law.

Article 32

City or county/municipality governments shall strengthen the investigation and prohibition against violations of agricultural land-use regulations, and shall cooperate with the investigation unit, which is established for this purpose in accordance with related land regulations.

In order to strengthen the investigation of violations of arable land use, the central competent authority may provide rewards of encouragement for impeachment of such regulations.

Article 33

Private juristic persons are prohibited from taking arable lands, with the exception of farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations or agricultural experimentation and research institutes taking lands pursuant to Article 34 of this Act with permission.

Article 34

Farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, or agricultural experimentation and research institutes in compliance with technology-intensive or capital-intensive standards and categorization, after receiving permission through application, may take arable lands. Technology-intensive or capital-intensive standards and categorization shall be formulated and promulgated by the central competent authority.

Farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, or agricultural experimentation and research institutes applying for taking arable lands shall submit operation and exploitation plans as well as other required documentation to the competent authorities at city or county/ municipality of the land location; the said government will then submit the application to the central competent authority for permission and the issuance of the certification of the approval. The applicant then takes the certification to register the transfer of the land ownership.

The central competent authority shall base its approval on factors such as the state of agricultural development at the land location, the categorization of the application, as well as the operation and exploitation plans, and it shall limit the site location, the size, and the usage of the arable land, and the highest amount of mortgage on the land.

Regulations governing the said transfer permission application of the arable land taken by farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, or agricultural experimentation and research institutes shall be formulated by the central competent authority.

Article 35

Farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, or agricultural experimentation and research institutes taking arable lands pursuant to the preceding article are prohibited from changing operation and exploitation plans at will or laying the land idle, unless the aforesaid acts are approved by the central competent authority.

Article 36

Farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, or agricultural research institutes taking arable lands by permission pursuant to Article

34 are prohibited from (changing the use of the land) using the land for other purposes. An exception can be adopted for operating projects, which apply for changing land usage based on corresponding regulations.

Article 37

Agricultural lands in use for agricultural purposes may apply for exemption of the land value incremental tax when they are transferred to natural persons.

The arable lands of agricultural use that are transferred to farmers' organizations, agricultural corporation and agricultural experimentation and research institutes in accordance with Articles 33 and 34, and are accorded with the needs of agricultural development, specific scales and other conditions, may apply for exemption of the land value incremental tax upon the approval of the competent authorities at City or county/municipality level.

The said land taker exempted from the land value incremental tax as stated in the last two paragraphs, shall pay the land value incremental tax at next transfer, if within the period of his/her land ownership the land is found not used for agricultural purposes by the authorities concerned and not restored for agricultural uses within the period of limitation set by the authorities concerned, or if the land is restored for agricultural use within the official period of limitation but is found used for other purposes again later.

The said land taker not using the land for agricultural purposes shall combine the land given to or taken from his/her spouse for the imposition of land value incremental tax.

Article 38

The agricultural land in use for agricultural purposes thereon when taken by inheritors or legatees, the values of the said land and crops shall be exempted from estate duty and exempted from farmland tax for ten years from the year of taking of the estate. The inheritors or legatees shall re-pay the tax which was exempted before if within five years from the date of inheritance or acceptance they do not continue engaging the land for agricultural purposes, and do not restore agricultural uses of the land within the period of limitation as stipulated by the authorities concerned, or have restored the land for agricultural use within the period of limitation as stipulated by the authorities concerned but are found later used for other purposes again. It is however inapplicable upon the death of the inheritors or legatees, or the expropriation or changing of the land in accordance with the laws.

In the event that the agricultural land in use for agricultural purposes thereon are given to the inheritors as gifts pursuant to Article 1138 of the Civil Law, the values of the said land and crops shall be exempted from bestow tax and exempted from farmland tax for ten years from the year of acceptance of the estate. The donees shall re-pay the tax which was exempted before if within five years from the date of acceptance they do not continue engaging the land for agricultural purposes and do not restore agricultural uses of the land within the period of limitation as stipulated by the authorities concerned, or have restored the land for agricultural use within the period of limitation as stipulated by the authorities concerned but are found later used for other purposes again. Such a rule is inapplicable upon the death of the donees, or the expropriation or changing of the land in accordance with the laws.

In the event pursuant to the first paragraph where there are more than one inheritor who all agree to have one inheritor to inherit the land and compensate other inheritors in cash, the competent authorities shall assist

with the application of a 20-year land loan.

Article 38-1

The building site in the urban area, no matter when it has been converted from agricultural land by law, can be applied for exemption of the land value incremental tax or estate duty or bestow tax according to the Article 37, paragraph 1 and Article 38, paragraph 1 or 2. The applicants applying for the tax exemption as mentioned above have to submit 2 documents which are issued by urban planning and agricultural departments separately to tax revenue. The document, which is issued by the urban planning department, has to recognize fitting for one of the condition mentioned below, and the other one, which is issued by agricultural department, has to certificate of being in agricultural use.

1. Due to the detail plan has not been completed the building site can not be used as it has been planed.

2. Although the detail plan has been completed, concerning stipulations limit its development by ways of land consolidation or zoned expropriation, the building site still can not be used as it has been planed before the plans of land consolidation or zoned expropriation are put into practice. Agricultural land which has been converted into not agricultural use before August 3rd 1983 can be applied for exemption of land value incremental tax according to the preceding paragraph under the situation of local government' s agreement.

Article 39

The applicants applying for land value incremental tax exemption, or the exemptions of estate duty, bestow tax and farmland tax pursuant to the preceding two articles, shall submit the certificate of agricultural use of agricultural land to the tax revenues.

The regulations with respect to the acknowledgement standard of taking-agricultural land for agricultural use, the certificate of agriculture use of agricultural land as stated in the preceding paragraph, issuance procedures and other requirements shall be formulated by the central competent authority in concert with other authorities concerned.

Article 40

Agricultural lands engaged in agricultural purposes with the approval of the land value incremental tax application or with the exemptions of estate duty, bestow tax, or farmland tax shall be subject to regular or random inspections and shall be monitored and supervised by the competent authorities at the city or county/municipality in concert with other authorities concerned. In the event of non-compliance of agricultural use pursuant to Articles 37 and 38, the violator shall be subject to the governance of the first paragraph of Article 69 in addition to re-pay the tax, which was exempted before.

Article 41

In the event of family farms purchasing or exchanging arable lands at the same or an adjacent site to expand the operation area or to facilitate agricultural operations, provided that the total area of the land of the acquired plus the surface area of the original arable land is less than five hectares, the additional part of land shall be exempted from farmland tax for five years. With respect to the funds required for the purchase of the land or for necessary compensation in cash, the competent authority shall assist in applying for a 20-year loan.

Article 42 Agricultural school or college graduates, who are in need of capitals for purchasing arable lands and directly engaging in agricultural

production, shall be assisted by the competent authorities for applying for a 20-year loan.

Article 43

The central competent authority shall, in concert with other authorities concerned, formulate provisions regulating the eligibility of applicants, the period, interests, the amount and other related matters of the said loan as stated in the first paragraph of Article 30, the third paragraph of Article 38, Article 41 and the preceding provision.

Chapter 4 Agricultural Transportation and Distribution, Prices and Trade

Article 44

In maintaining the balance between agricultural production and distribution as well as reasonable prices of agricultural products, the competent authorities may organize domestic and international promotion activities or designate agricultural products to be produced and purchased with guaranteed prices by contract as concluded between parties of supply and demand.

Article 45

In response to prices fluctuations of domestic and international agricultural products and in order to stabilize the production and distribution of agricultural products, the government shall designate important agricultural products for the establishment of a stabilization fund either by the government or private sectors. The rules and regulations for the establishment, custody and utilization of the said fund shall be formulated by the central competent authority in concert with other authorities concerned.

Article 46

Joint supply and distribution, transportation and distribution, direct supply for factories or exports by farmers or farmers' organizations shall be deemed the first transaction on the wholesale market and shall be entitled to the exemption of stamp duties and business taxes pursuant to the applicable tax laws.

Article 47

Farmers shall be exempted from stamp duties and business taxes for selling self-produced agricultural products.

Article 48

The central competent authority may, in concert with other authorities concerned, implement planned production and distribution of agricultural products or processed agricultural products of all kinds respectively, and shall coordinate the conflicting interests of each of agricultural industries of production, manufacturing, transportation and distribution.

Article 49

The competent authorities may, or upon the application of farmers' organizations or agricultural product processing industries, divide raw material supply zones into separate areas for raw materials purchase by

contract. The said divided raw material supply zones may be changed by the competent authorities in accordance with the actual demand and supply.

Undivided raw material supply zones shall be subject to the allocation of raw materials by the competent authorities in concert with other authorities concerned.

Article 50

The competent authorities shall, in concert with other authorities concerned, assist farmers or farmers' organizations in implementing the alignment of production, manufacture, storage and distribution, and shall encourage the establishment of factories on the industrial land of farming villages or within industrial zones to facilitate farmers' employment and raw material supply.

Article 51

With respect to export of agricultural products and processed agricultural products, a convention can be covenanted to maintain methodical order of export.

The central competent authority shall designate agricultural products for farmers' organizations or state-owned organizations to take charge of export or unified supply of the said products.

In respect of any raw and packaging materials required for processing agricultural products for export, and for materials imported to pack previously stated products, the tariff duties and commodity taxes that must be levied may be refunded by applying to the regulations of "the Customs Law and Statute Commodity Tax Act" after the end items are exported.

Article 52

The competent authorities of trade shall seek the central competent authority's consent prior to granting import approval to agricultural products subject to import restrictions.

The competent authority of finance, in concert with the central competent authority first, shall then promulgate the type, quantity, allocation methods and allocation periods of quota, before implementing tariffs and quota on agricultural products.

In the event that the importation of agricultural products or processed agricultural products has caused or is likely to cause damage to domestic agriculture, the central competent authority shall meet with related central authorities concerned to formulate necessary measures, to establish a relief fund in the amount of NT\$100 billion, and to adjust industrial structures or adopt safeguard measures, or to provide subsidization or relief measures for those deemed damaged or likely to be damaged sectors. The said relief measures for agricultural products damaged from importation as well as regulations with respect to the revenues and expenditures, the custody and the utilization of the said relief fund for agricultural products damaged from importation shall be formulated by the Executive Yuan.

The source of the aforementioned fund as stated in the last paragraph may, in addition to the government allocated budget to make up the deficiency in three years, include the surplus from selling agricultural products or processed agricultural products that are subject to restricted-importation measures and tariff or quota as approved by the government, as well as the income from selling the right to import of the said.

Article 53

In maintaining the order of production and distribution and ensuring fair trade of imported agricultural products, the central competent authority may, in concert with the competent authorities of finance and trade, adopt tariff-quota measures, safeguard and other special measures in accordance with applicable regime; or shall designate an agency responsible for importation matters, if necessary.

In the event that the exporting country of agricultural trade designates an agency handling export matters of a certain agricultural product to Taiwan, the central competent authority may, in concert with the competent authorities of trade, designate or establish a counterpart agency to handle the importation of the agricultural products of the exporting country.

Chapter 5 Farmers Welfare and Farming Village Development

Article 54

In meeting the needs for future agricultural development, the government shall establish an agricultural development fund of one hundred and fifty billion New Taiwan Dollars to promote farmers' welfare and agricultural development. The sources of the said agricultural development fund, in addition to donations, shall be secured to fulfill the set amount through government budget planning in 12 years.

The said donations, with the certification from the competent authorities, may be exempted from income tax or be listed as expenditure of the concurrent year in pursuance with the provisions of the Tax Law.

The agricultural development fund established by the central competent authority shall be used for the purposes of improving farmers' welfare or agricultural development. The regulations for the revenue and expenditure, the custody and the utilization of the said fund shall be formulated by the Executive Yuan.

Article 55

In ensuring the sustainability of agricultural production resources and to reduce the impact of imported agricultural products on domestic agriculture, the competent authorities of agriculture shall encourage with rewards environment-friendly activities such as setting aside agriculture or reforesting on agricultural lands.

Article 56

The central government shall establish an Agriculture Finance Planning Commission to plan for and review agricultural financial policies and the agricultural financial system. The regulations for the establishment of the said commission shall be formulated by the Executive Yuan.

The central competent authority shall, in accordance with the said policies of the preceding paragraph, formulate agricultural loan program, in respect to the raising and allocation of funds for agricultural loans, and shall establish a guidance system for financing loan.

Article 57

In order to assist farmers in obtaining capitals required to practice

farming, the government shall establish an agricultural credit guarantee system and provide rewards or subsidy.

Article 58

The government shall initiate an agricultural insurance program to secure farmers' income, to stabilize rural communities and to make full use of agricultural resources.

Before the agricultural insurance program is enacted into law, the central competent authority shall establish regulations in accordance with which agricultural insurance program by districts, categorization and stage may be implemented on a trial basis. All farmers within the same district and business operation line may participate in the program. Farmers' organizations may be commissioned to handle the said insurance program.

The commissioned farmers' organization handling the insurance program shall receive rewards and have the assistance or support from the government.

Article 59

In response to the impact of agricultural globalization and liberalization, senior farmers shall be encouraged to retire from farming while young professional farmers undertake to participate in agricultural production system so as to enhance agricultural competitiveness and accelerate agricultural restructuring.

Article 60

In the event that agricultural production suffers damages from natural disasters, the government shall provide cash relief, subsidization or low-rate loans and reduce/exempt farmland tax pursuant to applicable laws to assist farmers in resuming production in a quick manner.

The regulations for the said cash relief, subsidization or low-rate loans shall be formulated by the central competent authority.

The fund needed for the cash relief, subsidization or low-rate loans of the first paragraph shall be made available from a natural disaster mitigation fund for agriculture established by the central competent authority. The regulations for the revenues and expenditures, the custody and the utilization of the said fund shall be formulated by the Executive Yuan.

Article 61

In order to improve the living environment of farming villages, the government needs to appropriate funds to strengthen the infrastructure of farming villages, to promote the renovation of rural communities, as well as the medical care system, and recreational and cultural facilities of farming villages so as to enhance the living environment of modern farming villages.

The renovation of rural communities may be carried out through land zone re-division, or land section expropriation to increase modern public facilities in farming villages and to expand the scope of rural communities.

Article 62

In preserving agricultural production and the living environment of farming

villages, the competent authorities shall undertake necessary measures to prevent both the pollution of agricultural production to the environment and the pollution of non-agricultural sectors to agricultural production, farm village environment, water resources, land and air.

Article 63

The authorities superintended in the level of city or county/municipality, in accordance with regional agricultural features, landscape resources, ecosystem and cultural heritage, shall schematize agricultural regions for recreational purposes that should be submitted to central authorities for sanction.

The establishment of recreational farms shall be examined by the competent authorities at city or county/municipality level. After this examination, the application should be submitted for the reception of approval by the central authority.

Central government is in charge of enacting regulations about recreational agricultural areas stated in the first paragraph such as the defining conditions, procedures, assisting construction, minimum area, granting conditions, permit issuing and abolishment, land usage, managing constructing behavior and other items should be complied with.

Chapter 6 Agricultural Research and Extension

Article 64

In order to upgrade agricultural science and technology level and promote the transformation of agricultural industries, the competent authorities shall supervise and request their respective affiliated agricultural research and experiment institutes to strengthen the cooperation between research and experiment sectors and agricultural industry sectors and to promote the technology development in agricultural industries.

In completing the research effort of agricultural technology for the development of agricultural industries, the central competent authority shall strengthen the management and application of intellectual property rights on agricultural technology and shall guide in establishing centers of innovation and education.

The guidance of establishing the incubation centers as stated in the preceding paragraph would be formulated, if necessary, by the central competent authority.

Article 65

To meet the needs of agricultural development, the central authorities shall, in concert with the central authorities of education and technology, formulate agricultural research, education and extension plans with respect to agricultural experiment, research, education, training and extension, for the purpose of ensuring and increase agricultural competitiveness.

Budgets shall be prepared by the central authority for awarding scholarship to youngsters who wish to engage in agricultural business for helping them study in agricultural schools and colleges; and agricultural training shall be strengthened in order to enhance the standards of agricultural science and technology and agricultural management.

Public extension of agriculture as conducted by the competent authorities shall be listed as the expenditure of public extension in the budget.

Article 66

In expanding the scale of farm operation and encouraging farmers to change their career paths, the competent authorities shall, in concert with the competent vocational training authorities, provide vocational training for farmers who resign from farming, and assist them in seeking a new career.

Article 67

In strengthening agricultural extension and perfecting the functions of all designated agencies, the competent authorities shall appoint specialized units or staffs of agricultural extensions to organize agricultural extension activities, and may, if necessary, commission agricultural schools and colleges, farmers' organizations, agricultural corporation, agricultural organizations, and corporation or organizations concerned and communities to organize the same and to provide necessary guidance, supervision and appraisal.

Regulations for the agricultural extension activities shall be formulated by the central authority.

Article 67-1

Persons who provide the services of agricultural extensions may collect fees.

Article 67-2

In strengthening the extension and utilization of the efforts from agricultural experimentation and research and establishing life-long education systems for farmers, the competent authorities shall build up an integral system of agricultural extensions and consolidate the developments such as the training of farming practices, improvement of living, guidance for youngsters, transmission of information and development of farm villages.

The central authority should appoint a professional unit, to plan and engage in the developments such as agricultural extensions, education and training of professional manpower in agriculture and information transmission.

Article 68

The competent authorities shall reward those persons who contribute to the development of agriculture through agricultural experimentation, research, education and extension. The regulations for granting the said rewards shall be formulated by the central competent authority.

Chapter 7 Penalty

Article 69

The penalty provisions of the Regional Planning Law or the Urban Planning Law shall be imposed on the violators of agricultural land use provided by the land use regulations of the Regional Planning Law or the Urban Planning Law.

Non-compliance of Article 36 or arbitrary land use changes of the arable lands taken by farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, or agricultural experimentation and research institutes pursuant to this Act, shall be subject to the preceding paragraph; and the heads of the said

farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations, and agricultural experimentation and research institutes shall be fined a minimum of sixty thousand and up to three hundred thousand New Taiwan Dollars.

Article 70

A person who establishes a recreational farm and proceeds recreational agricultural activities without first acquiring a government permission shall be fined a minimum of sixty thousand and up to three hundred thousand New Taiwan Dollars and be ordered to correct the said offense within a prescribed period; for violators who do not correct within the prescribed period, penalties shall be imposed by stage.

Article 71

In the event that the land use or operation plans of recreational farms are changed arbitrarily without permissions from the competent authorities, notification shall be made for corrections within a prescribed period as determined by the competent authorities at city or county/municipality; for violators who do not correct within the limited period, a fine of a minimum of sixty thousand and up to three hundred thousand New Taiwan Dollars shall be imposed by stage. In the event of serious offenses, the registration and permission may be cancelled.

Article 72

Farmers' organizations, agricultural corporations or agricultural experimentation and research institutes in violation of Article 35 in that changing operation and exploitation plans without approval or laying the arable land idle, shall be fined a minimum of thirty thousand up to one hundred and fifty thousand New Taiwan Dollars and be ordered to make corrections within a prescribed period; violators who do not make corrections within the prescribed period, penalties shall be imposed by stage.

Article 73

The fines of this Act shall be imposed by the competent authorities.

Article 74

The fines imposed by this Act shall be paid within a prescribed period. Fines in default shall be subject to compulsory execution by the court of law.

Chapter 8 Supplementary Provisions

Article 75

The competent authorities at each level in handling applications or registration and the issuance of certification pursuant to this Act, shall charge review fees, registration fees or certification fees to the applicant. The standard of charging the said fees shall be formulated by the central competent authority.

Article 76

The implementation rules of this Act shall be established by the central competent authority.

Article 77

This Act shall come into effect as of the date of promulgation.

Data Source : MONISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Laws and Regulations Retrieving System