

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 AUG -8 P2:33

SENATE
S. No. 1099

RECEIVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Revilla", written over a horizontal line.

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY
GENERATION AND TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since time immemorial agriculture has been the Philippines' economic backbone. It is one of the country's principal source of income and employment, almost half of the total labor force belongs to the agricultural sector, making it a major industry of our nation.

However, it has been observed that small farm-holders and tenant farmers still rely on traditional farming methods instead of adopting new agricultural techniques and technologies. In spite of efforts by government agencies, institutions and non-government organizations, these farmers have yet to evolve and adapt to the times, their orthodox way of doing things now hinder them from growing like large new agribusiness farms in the country. The conventional ways of farming they are accustomed to keep them buoyant but also threaten their survival for the coming year. Today's economic climate isn't farmer-friendly, they are starting to feel the weight brought by the times.

A lot of our farmers remain economically powerless and technologically outdated due to the low investment in research and development (R&D) and inadequate generation and ineffective transfer of agricultural technologies.

The Philippines cannot afford to allow the present state of affairs to continue, with the increasing population, the country may not be able to produce or import the food to properly meet the needs of its people and the nation's rapid growth.

In order for our country to become a progressive industrialized nation, it should have a strong and highly productive agricultural sector. Its strength and productivity rely on the empowerment of the majority of farmers and the promotion of the development of cutting-edge agricultural technologies to enable our country to become highly competitive in the international market.

This Act is in response to the strongly felt need to integrate R&D, technology generation and transfer into a single coherent and harmonious national system completely dedicated to the socio-economic well-being of Filipino farmers. It aims to transform traditional agricultural practices to modern highly productive agricultural practices that will elevate their incomes and provide a totally better quality of life.

A sustained expansion of the national economy requires sustained growth in the agricultural sector. We must transform our farmers into a resource of renewed national vigor and creativity in our drive for global competitiveness.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

'22 AUG -8 P2 :33

SENATE

S. No. 1099

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY
GENERATION AND TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress Assembled:*

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "*Agriculture Technology*
2 *Generation and Transfer Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -

4 a) The State shall protect and promote the socio-economic welfare and
5 well-being of Filipino farmers, particularly those in the countryside
6 towards this end, it is the purpose of this Act to establish an Integrated
7 System of Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer that will most
8 efficiently and effectively provide the agricultural technology services as
9 a means of empowerment of farmers and enable them to help sustain a
10 self-sufficient and self-reliant food and agriculture production for its
11 people and accelerate agro-industrial development of the country.

12 b) The State also commits itself to the protection of the environment and
13 the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

14 Sec. 3. *Scope.* - This Act shall apply to and govern all existing agricultural
15 research and extension activities of the National Government, the local government
16 units, farmer's and non-government organizations and the state universities and
17 colleges in the country.

18 Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - The following terms shall mean as defined herein:

1 a) *Agriculture*. - Refers to the art, science and business of cultivating the
2 soil, planting of crops, growing of fruit trees, management of forests,
3 raising or catching or both of livestock poultry or fish; including the
4 harvesting and post-harvest handling of such products, and other
5 activities and practices performed by persons whether natural or juridical
6 in conjunction with such operations.

7 b) *Research and Development (R&D)*. - Pertains to all organized activities
8 designed to search for new knowledge or modify existing ones, develop
9 new methods and techniques of operation, tools, equipment or types of
10 organisms through the application of the scientific method.

11 c) *Technology Generation*. - R&D activities that are directed principally
12 towards the development of such methods, techniques, computer
13 software and hardware, tools, equipment, or types of organisms that may
14 be used or applied for the benefit of man The product of such activities
15 may be referred to as technologies.

16 d) *Technology Transfer*. - Pertains to all organized activities designed to
17 enable individuals or groups to effectively adapt a particular technology.

18 e) *Farmer*. - Any person who engages in any agricultural activity.

19 f) *Sustainable Agriculture*. - Any principle, method and/or practice that
20 aims to make agriculture economically viable, ecologically sound, socially
21 just, culturally appropriate, and grounded on holistic science.

22 Sec. 5. *Purpose*. - The purpose of the Integrated System of Agriculture
23 Technology Generation and Transfer shall be to most effectively and efficiently
24 respond to and provide for the technology needs of farmers and enable them to attain
25 higher productivity and market competitiveness in the context of sustainable
26 agricultural principles and practices.

27 Sec. 6. *The Integrated System of Agriculture Technology Generation and*
28 *Transfer (ISATGaT)*. - All government agencies and institutions, including local
29 government units and farmers and non-government organizations that are engaged
30 in R&D, training and extension activities in agriculture shall be organized and formed
31 into an Integrated System of Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer
32 (ISATGaT) It shall be organized into hierarchical and interlocking councils at the

1 national, regional and provincial levels The national and regional councils shall be
2 concerned with both the technology generation and transfer activities while the
3 provincial councils shall be concerned with technology transfer activities.

4 *Sec. 7. Components of the System. -*

- 5 a) Department of Agriculture
- 6 b) Institutes and Centers for Agricultural Research Development and
- 7 Training c) Local Government Units
- 8 d) State Universities and Colleges
- 9 e) Farmers' and Non-Government Organizations

10 *Sec. 8. The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall:*

- 11 a) Provide the office of the Chairman and the Secretarial of the National
- 12 Integrated System for Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer
- 13 (NISATGaT) Council
- 14 b) Organize and operate a Bureau of Agriculture technology Generation
- 15 and Transfer (BATGaT) out of its existing research centers and outreach
- 16 stations and training institutes for purposes of addressing agriculture
- 17 technology issues or for national concern, and
- 18 c) Coordinate the activities of the NISATGaT Council with that of the other
- 19 units within its department and with other agencies and instrumentalities
- 20 of the Government in order that such activities shall be consistent with
- 21 and in pursuit of the National programs and objectives of the country.

22 *Sec. 9. The Autonomous National Institutes and Centers for Agricultural*
23 *Research, Development and Training shall: -*

- 24 a) Undertake such technology generation and transfer activities as may
- 25 be recommended by the NISATGaT Council, and
- 26 b) Maintain and improve high level of technical manpower and
- 27 appropriate facilities to be able to effectively undertake whatever
- 28 technology generation and transfer activities may be deemed necessary.

29 *Sec. 10. The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall: -*

- 30 a) Designate a Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO)- in each province who
- 31 will represent the respective provinces in the Regional Integrated System
- 32 for Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (RISATGaT) Council

1 and coordinate all activities pertaining to agricultural technology services
2 to farmers in his/her provinces; and

3 b) In collaboration with a duly recognized provincial college of agriculture,
4 shall organize a Provincial Agriculture Technology Transfer (PATT)
5 Council whose members will include the head of the agricultural
6 institution, the PAO, Municipal Agricultural Officers, representatives of
7 recognized local farmers' and non-government organizations.

8 *Sec. 11. The State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) shall: -*

9 a) Designate an Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (ATGaT)
10 Coordinator who will represent the institution in the Regional Integrated
11 System for Technology Generation and Transfer (RISATGaT) Council in
12 the case of duly accredited regional SUCs;

13 b) Designate an Agriculture Technology Transfer (ATT) Coordinator for
14 the institution and who will represent the institution in the Provincial
15 Integrated System for Agriculture Technology Transfer (PISATT) Council
16 in the case of duly accredited provincial agricultural colleges or provincial
17 technical institutes of agriculture;

18 c) Undertake research, technology generation and/or technology transfer
19 on such areas as may be recommended by the NISATGaT, RISATGaT or
20 PISATT Council in the case of duly accredited national, regional or
21 provincial agricultural institution(s), respectively:

22 d) Provide the office of the Chairman and Secretariat of the RISATGaT
23 Council in the case of the regional state agricultural institution or of the
24 PISATT Council in the case of the provincial agricultural institution as may
25 be designated by the NISATGaT Council, and

26 e) Provide facilities and staff for and conduct training of agricultural
27 technologies, technicians and farmers in the utilization of the various
28 agricultural technologies.

29 *Sec. 12. Farmers and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) shall: -*

30 a) Volunteer facilities or certain portions of their farms for tests and/or
31 demonstration of certain agricultural technologies that are of potential
32 benefit to them;

1 b) Actively participate in the problem opportunity identification, planning
2 and implementation of research and development of promising
3 technologies; and

4 c) Share in the cost of research and development of technologies that are
5 potentially beneficial to them.

6 *Sec. 13. Creation of the National Integrated System for Agriculture Technology*
7 *Generation and Transfer (NISATGaT) Council.* - To carry out the programs for
8 generation and transfer of agriculture technologies of the country, the National
9 Integrated System for Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer (NISATGaT)
10 Council is hereby created and attached to the Department of Agriculture for
11 administrative purposes only, with the following composition and functions:

12 a) Composition. - The following shall serve as members of the NISATGaT
13 with its Chairman to be elected to serve for a period of three (3) years.

14 1) One outstanding scientist from each of the fields of Crop
15 Science, Animal Science, Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries,
16 Forestry and Veterinary Medicine who shall be nominated by heads
17 of faculties, scientific or professional groups for a term of three (3)
18 years, and from among themselves, a Co-chairperson shall be
19 chosen;

20 2) The Director of the Bureau of Agriculture Research, Technology
21 Generation and Transfer (BARATGaT) who shall also serve as the
22 Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Council;

23 3) The Dean, College of Agriculture of the University Council of the
24 Philippines at Los Baños;

25 4) The President of the Philippine Association of Agricultural
26 Colleges and Universities;

27 5) The Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture
28 and Resources Research and Development (PCARRD);

29 6) One representative of the National Farmers' Organizations and
30 one representative of the National NGOs involved with agricultural
31 technology transfer;

32 7) Chairperson of each of the RISATGaT Councils;

1 8) The Director, Bureau of Animal Industry; and

2 9) The Director, Bureau of Plant Industry; and

3 10) The Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

4 b) Functions. - The NISATGaT Council shall have the following duties and
5 functions:

6 1) Scan the environment of the Philippine agriculture and study
7 new development and trends where problems and opportunities
8 could arise and taken advantage of by developing new
9 technologies;

10 2) Study new technologies in agriculture and related fields and
11 determine whether these could be advantageously adapted by
12 Filipino farmers,

13 3) Formulate policies that will encourage and promote the
14 expeditious generation and transfer of technologies that are most
15 beneficial to the Filipino people,

16 4) Prioritize national programs for research, technology generation
17 and transfer that government should support;

18 5) Make representation with the Department of Budget and
19 Management and see to the timely and efficient allocation of funds
20 for agriculture research, technology generation and transfer
21 programs as recommended by NISATGaT, and

22 6) Formulate policies regarding technology, protection,
23 commercialization and dissemination.

24 *Sec. 14. Creation of the Regional Integrated System for Agriculture Technology*
25 *Generation and Transfer Council.* - To carry out the regional programs for generation
26 and transfer of technologies appropriate for each of the regions, a Regional
27 Agricultural Technology Generation and Transfer (RISATGaT) Council is hereby
28 created in each of the geographical regions of the country and attached to a chartered
29 regional state university or college as designated by the MSATGaT Council.

30 a) Composition. - The RISATGaT Council shall be composed of the
31 following members whose Chairman shall be elected by its members for
32 a term of three (3) years and assisted by a Secretariat,

- 1) The Heads of the accredited agricultural university(ies) and college(s) of the region,
- 2) The Directors/ Heads of Regional Integrated Agriculture Research Centers and of other duly recognized agricultural commodity research and training centers in the region,
- 3) The Manager/ head of the Regional Outreach Station;
- 4) The Provincial Agricultural Officers of each province of the region,
- 5) The President (s) or Chairperson (s) of duly recognized farmers and non-government organizations involved in the promotion of agriculture in the region; and
- 6) The Coordinator of Agriculture Technology Generation and Transfer of the institution to which the RPSATGaT is attached and who shall also serve as in charge of the Secretariat.

b) Function. - The RISATGaT Council shall have the following duties and functions:

- 1) Periodically discuss problems and opportunities for developing agriculture in the province and plan and cause the implementation of research, technology generation and transfer programs that will most effectively address such issues;
- 2) Coordinate the research, technology generation and technology transfer activities in the region and see that they are consistent with the plans and programs approved by the RISATGaT;
- 3) Determine the priorities for research, technology generation and transfer that may be implemented in the region and accordingly recommend financial support by the Government or by any interested parties;
- 4) Periodically review on-going research and development projects and programs and see that they are squarely address their objectives; and

1 5) Plan and facilitate the transfer of new and appropriate
2 agricultural technologies to farmers and other end-users in the
3 region.

4 Sec. 15. *Creation of Provincial Integrated System for Agriculture Technology*
5 *Transfer Council.* - To effectively transfer agriculture technologies to farmers in the
6 provinces and municipalities, the Provincial Agriculture Technology Transfer (PATT)
7 Council shall be established in each of the provinces and attached to the provincial
8 agricultural college designated by the RISATGaT Council.

9 a) Composition. - The PATT Council shall be composed of the following
10 members with the Chairman to be elected from among the members and
11 serve for three (3) years:

12 1) The Head(s) of recognized provincial agricultural college(s) or
13 institute(s):

14 2) The Provincial Agricultural Officer (PAO) who shall also serve as
15 Coordinator of Technology Transfer and in-charge of the PATT
16 Council Secretariat.

17 3) The Municipal Agricultural Officer of each municipality; and

18 4) The chairperson(s) of duly recognized farmers and non-
19 government organizations involved in agriculture in the province.

20 b) Functions. - PATT Council shall have the following duties and functions:

21 1) Periodically discuss problems and opportunities for developing
22 agriculture in the province and plan and cause the implementation
23 of appropriate technology for transfer to farmers and other local
24 end-users;

25 2) Coordinate technology transfer activities in the region and see
26 that they are consistent with its approved plans and programs;

27 3) Determine priority technology transfer activities that may be
28 implemented in the province and accordingly recommend financial
29 support by the local government or by any interested parties;

30 4) Periodically review on-going technology transfer activities in the
31 province and see that they squarely address their objectives; and

1 5) Plan and facilitate the transfer of new and appropriate
2 agriculture technologies to farmers and other end-users in the
3 province.

4 Sec. 16. *Budgetary Scheme.* - Shall be as follows: -

5 a) The current appropriations or budgets for agriculture research,
6 technology generation and transfer program of the state agencies,
7 institutes and centers and local government units and SUCs shall be
8 increased from the present level by annual increment of 0.2% of the GVA
9 of the agriculture sector for the next ten (10) years as recommended by
10 the NISATGaT Council and approved by the Department of Budget and
11 Management and shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations
12 Act.

13 b) This Act hereby allocates an endowment lump sum amount of Fifty
14 million pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) per annum for the next ten (10) years
15 and shall be included in the General Appropriations Act starting 1995.
16 This fund shall be called the Agriculture Technology Generation and
17 Transfer Fund to support high priority technology generation and transfer
18 programs of the NISATGaT Council, the RISATGaT Councils and the PATT
19 Councils. Provided, that such fund shall be invested in government bonds
20 and securities and managed by the NISATGaT Council using only the
21 interest earnings of the said kind.

22 c) The operations of the Bureau of Agriculture Research, Technology
23 Generation and Transfer shall be funded initially from the DA allocation
24 for the operation of both its Bureaus of Agricultural Research (BAR) and
25 Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) upon the effectivity of this Act, the
26 BAR and ATI shall be replaced by the BARTGaT. Subsequently, the
27 appropriation of the BARTGaT shall be incremented according to the
28 provisions of subsection (a) hereof.

29 Sec. 18. *Incentives for Private Institutions.* - Private institutions and
30 organizations may avail of the research, technology generation and transfer fund.
31 Provided, That their programs shall be approved for funding by the NISATGaT Council.
32 Furthermore, their expenditures for research and development activities shall be

1 eligible for tax exemptions Provided, That the information that they derive therefrom
2 shall be shared with the community of researchers through scientific publications,
3 seminars, symposia and the like.

4 *Sec. 19. Incentives and Benefits for Technologists and Technicians and Farmers*
5 *Participating in Technology Generation and Transfer.*

6 a) Technologists and technicians involved in research, technology
7 generation and transfer shall be paid salaries, at least, equal to the
8 teaching staff of the SUCs of equivalent academic training and
9 qualifications. They shall also be given corresponding incentives and
10 benefits for any patent on products or processes that they have
11 developed

12 b) Farmers who participate in the planning and implementation of
13 technology generation and transfer activities or make available certain
14 areas of their farm lots or farm facilities for such activities shall be entitled
15 to certain incentives and benefits as may be recommended by the
16 supervising Council and approved by the Commission on Audit.

17 *Sec. 20. Repealing Clause.* - All existing laws, rules and regulations or parts
18 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
19 accordingly.

20 *Sec. 21. Separability Clause.* - If any part, section or provision of this Act shall
21 be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision hereof shall be
22 affected thereby.

23 *Sec 22. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation

Approved,