



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

22 OCT -5 P5 54

SENATE
S.B. No. 1371

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE BATAAN CROP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
ON THE CAMPUS OF THE BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ABUCAY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Section 10, Article XIV states that, "*The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life.*"

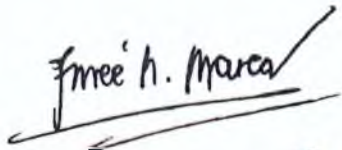
In the Philippines, rice is a staple meal and farming is a source of employment in the countryside. This is particularly true in Bataan which produces high-value crops in modest amounts. In 2021, 26,963 hectares area harvested and 117,143 metric tons of palay are produced in Bataan.

On 22 June 2022, the School-on-the-Air on Smart Rice Agriculture (SOA-SRA) program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) sets thousands of farmers in Bataan to undergo training on smart rice agriculture technologies and practices to help them optimize farm yields amid the threat of climate change. However, despite efforts by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI) to increase rice production, both palay production and farm gate prices have decreased. Therefore, it is necessary to diversify the income-generating activities of rice farmers in order to reduce their reliance on the sale of rice and to encourage the sale of products made from rice in order to increase their income.

Pursuant to the Constitutional mandate, the State should proactively teach farmers how to develop quality rice-based products and encourage farmers to venture into producing high-value crops, such as vegetables, fruits, flowers, ornamentals, condiments and spice, and derivative products. It should develop the entrepreneurial skills of farmers to enable them to effectively market rice-based products and high-value crops and derivative products, and facilitate access to microloans to finance their business.

In order to help farmers increase their income by actively promoting and assisting them in the manufacture and marketing of rice-based products and high value crops and derivative products, this bill seeks to establish the Bataan Crop Research & Development Center on the Abucay campus of the Bataan Peninsula State University.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS



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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 “*Bataan Crop Research*
2 *& Development Center Act.*”

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote industrialization, rural development, full employment, a rising standard of
6 living, and an improved quality of life for all farmers by encouraging entrepreneurship
7 and activities that add value to agricultural products and provide additional sources of
8 income.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** –

11
12 a. “*Rice-based products*” refer to products made or derived from rice, such as
13 but not limited to the following: rice noodles, egg roll wrappers, edible rice
14 paper, rice-flour cakes and dumplings, rice bran oil, rice-alcoholic beverages,
15 rice vinegar, rice milk, rice syrup (an alternative sweetener), puffed rice, and
16 rice crackers.

- 1
2 b. *"High-value crops"* shall generally refer to non-staple agricultural crops such
3 as vegetables, fruits, flowers, ornamentals, condiments and spices. Products
4 derived from high-value crops include vegetable chips, vegetable oil, dried
5 fruits, fruit-based cakes and desserts, etc.

6
7 **SEC. 4.** *Bataan Crop Research & Development Center.* – The Bataan Crop
8 Research & Development Center ("Center") is hereby established on the campus of the
9 Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU) in the Municipality of Abucay, Province of
10 Bataan. The Center shall be under the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and
11 Department of Agriculture (DA).

12
13 **SEC. 5.** *Purposes and Objectives.* – The Center shall collaborate and coordinate
14 with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and
15 Technology (DOST), and BPSU to develop and implement a course or program that
16 would teach and train students and farmers how to develop rice-based products,
17 produce high-value crops and derivative products, and manage all aspects of business
18 relating to the marketing of such products, including obtaining necessary financing,
19 technology, and equipment.

20
21 **SEC. 6.** *Powers and Functions.* – The Center shall exercise the following powers
22 and functions:

- 23 a) Integrate, collate, and support research, programs, and studies on rice-
24 based product development and marketing;
25 b) Conduct continuing research on rice-based product development and
26 marketing;
27 c) Undertake research and generate relevant, efficient, cost-effective and
28 scientifically viable approaches to achieve greater sustainability in rice-based
29 product development and marketing;
30 d) Impart technical knowledge and train students and rice farmers on rice-
31 based product development and marketing;
32 e) Upgrade the entrepreneurial skills of rice farmers through training courses,
33 seminars, and workshops;
34 f) Collaborate with national, regional, and international research institutions
35 with knowledge and expertise on rice-based product development and
36 marketing;

- 1 g) Coordinate with local government units, non-governmental organizations,
2 and private sector groups and interests involved in rice-based product
3 research, development, and marketing;
4 h) Facilitate access to loans to establish and operate a business relating to the
5 development and marketing of rice-based products;
6 i) Encourage the creation of farmer cooperatives to achieve efficiencies in rice-
7 based product development, business financing, and marketing;
8 j) Develop an income-generating business model to help defray expenses and
9 sustain its programs; and
10 k) Receive and manage grants, aid, donations, or any kind of assistance or
11 gratuity from donors, foreign or domestic, to better achieve the Center's
12 objectives.

13
14 **SEC. 7. Executive Director.** – The Center shall be headed by an Executive
15 Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the joint
16 recommendation of the CHED Chairperson and Secretary of Agriculture. The Executive
17 Director shall be a recognized agriculturalist with extensive experience in rice-based
18 product research and development or a highly regarded entrepreneur in the field.
19 Preference shall be given to BPSU faculty members.

20
21 All other officers and employees of the Center shall be jointly appointed by the
22 CHED Chairperson and Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the
23 Executive Director and in accordance with existing Civil Service laws, rules, and
24 regulations. A representative from the DTI, a representative from the DOST, and a
25 BPSU faculty member with relevant expertise shall form part of the Center's staff.

26
27 **SEC. 8. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Director.** – The Executive
28 Director shall exercise the following duties and responsibilities:

- 29
30 a) Exercise over-all supervision and direction over the implementation of all
31 research and development and training programs of the Center and, in
32 general, to supervise and direct its management, operation, and
33 administration;
34 b) Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets, and
35 deliver documents on behalf of the Center;
36 c) Approve the organizational structure, operational and staffing pattern,
37 operating and capital expenditure of the Center;

- 1 d) Recommend the appointment of the officers and employees of the Center on
2 the basis of the highest standards of merit, probity, and fitness for public
3 servants, subject to Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations;
4 e) Implement policies, decisions, orders, rules, and regulations issued by the
5 CHED and DA; and
6 f) Exercise such other powers, functions, duties, or tasks as may be authorized,
7 delegated, or assigned by law and competent authority.
8

9 **SEC. 9. *Annual Report.*** – The Executive Director shall submit to the President
10 of the Philippines, through the CHED Chairperson and Secretary of Agriculture, an
11 annual report dealing generally with the activities and operations of the Center,
12 accompanied by an audit report of the relevant accounts.
13

14 **SEC. 10. *Donations and Solicitations.*** – The Center may solicit and receive
15 donations or endowments of money, property, or services which shall be exempt from
16 income taxes, taxes on gifts or gratuities, and all other taxes, charges, or fees imposed
17 by the government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof.
18

19 Government and public corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to the
20 Center from the unimpaired surplus of funds at their discretion.
21

22 **SEC. 11. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
23 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the CHED and DA. Thereafter,
24 the required budget for continued implementation of this Act shall be submitted to the
25 Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act.
26

27 **SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
28 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED Chairperson and Secretary of Agriculture shall
29 jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
30 Act.
31

32 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances,
33 executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulation
34 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
35

36 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
37 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
38 remain in full force and effect.

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SEC. 15. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,