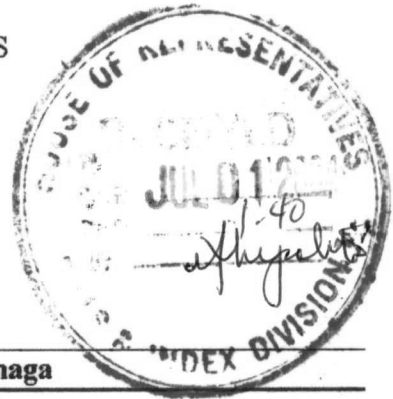


413

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HB NO. 413



Introduced by **Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

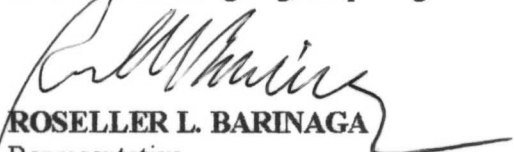
Bio-Organic farming is defined as a system of agricultural production which avoids the use of chemical or inorganic farm inputs, pesticides, weedicides and feed additives and relies on biological means of conditioning and enriching the soil and of controlling pests.

While reducing pollution and abating the destruction of useful organisms for the agricultural ecosystem, this ecosystem also helps solve the problem of waste and garbage disposal through the use of plant and animal waste and crop residues. It should also be noted that bio-farming, by not requiring expenses and lowering the cost of farm inputs.

Many aspects of bio-farming methods, such as vermiculture, the production and application of bio-organic fertilizers and other farm inputs, and the techniques of "integrated pest management" have been developed and applied for some years now in the Philippines. However, much more can and should be done.

It would be to the advantage of our environment, our economy and ultimately our people, to adopt our people, to adopt this measure providing for the promotion of bio-organic farming in the Philippines.

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


ROSELLER L. BARINAGA

Representative

2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

Congress of the Philippines)
Thirteenth Congress)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB NO. 413

Introduced by **Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF BIO – ORGANIC FARMING
IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, propagate and assist the practice of bio-organic farming in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase Farm yields, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion Of natural resources, and reduce our dependence on imported farm inputs. Towards This end, a comprehensive program for the production and distribution of bio-organic Fertilizers, pesticides and other farm inputs shall be undertaken in order to meet the country's requirements in or before the year 2000.

SEC. 2. Bio-Organic Farming. For purposes of this Act, "bio-organic farming" shall mean an agricultural production system which avoids the use of chemical or inorganic farm inputs, pesticides, weedicides and feed additives and relies on Biological means of conditioning and enriching the soil, and controlling pests, such as, but not limited to the use of beneficial organisms, the utilization of plant and animal trough composting, crop rotation, intercropping, multiple cropping, and the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or pesticide – free community ecology approaches to pest management. It also covers area such as but not limited to, soil fertility. Management, varietal breeding and selection under chemical and pesticide-free conditions, and other cultural practices that enhance productivity without destroying the soil and harming farmers, consumers, and the environment.

SEC. 3. Program. There is hereby established a comprehensive bio-organic cultivation and production method, the education of more and more farmers thereon, the extension of assistance to individuals and groups who are practicing and promoting these methods as well as those who are willing to do so, other pertinent activities, and documentation and evaluation of the program.

SEC. 4. Work Plan. – Within sixty (60) working days after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall submit to the Office of the President for approval:

- (a) A report on the setting-up and organization of the Directorate and staff;
- (b) A scheme of distribution and complementation of functions among the members of the Directorate;
- (c) A plan of bringing the program down to the grassroots, utilizing available personnel and facilities on the local level and those of Local government units;
- (d) A plan of cooperation and mutual assistance with local government units, POs and NGOs, which will maximize people empowering and participatory approaches to program formulation, implementation and monitoring, and
- (e) A schedule of short-term, medium-term, and long-term targets.

SEC. 5. *Bio-organic farming and Protection of the Environment.* The DA shall constantly devise and implement ways and means not only of producing bio-organic fertilizers and other farm inputs and needs on and off the farm but also of helping to alleviate the problems of industrial waste and community garbage disposal through appropriate methods of sorting, collecting and composting.

Likewise, the DA in coordination with the Department of Education shall set-up bio-organic demonstration farms in various schools nationwide.

SEC. 6. *Incentives.* The Government shall extend incentives for the manufacture and propagation of bio-organic farm inputs by maximizing their use in all government and government – supported agricultural production, research and demonstration programs. The DA, DOST, DepEd, DILG, DTI, LandBank of the Philippines and other government lending and non-lending institutions shall also assist organic input producers through the provision of adequate financial, technical, marketing and other services and resources.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* The sum of Fifty million (P 50,000,000.00) for the effective implementation of this Act is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the national treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such amount as maybe necessary for the continuous implementation of the program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

At least seventy-five percent (75 %) of the budget under this program shall be allotted for holistic and integrated scientific research, information, education, and training of farmers and demonstrations on the farm level, including the provision of full-time bio-farming extension workers who will work with farmers associations and cooperatives, POs, NGOs, barangay assemblies, rural communities and other groups.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason, any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after is complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.