

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2855



Introduced by Honorable Benasing O. Macarambon Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

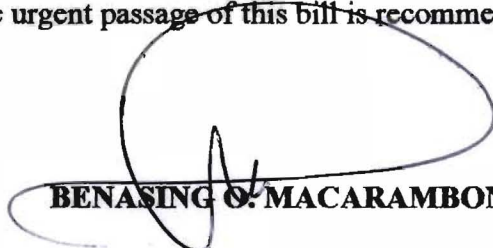
RA 7900 was enacted to develop the potential of high value crops as a means of achieving substantial earnings for the farmer. It covers every step of the production process of high value crops - production, processing, marketing, and distribution. It primarily focuses on encouraging small landholders, upland dwellers, lowland tenants, indigenous peoples, CARP beneficiaries, farmer organizations and cooperatives, to name a few, to concentrate on high value crop cultivation.

However, overlooked in the coverage are other landholders who could avail of and contribute to the program, and the large and idle landholdings which could be tapped for the production of high value crops. The private sector and large landholders could significantly contribute to agriculture productivity if they are provided the same opportunities and incentives as small landholders.

RA 7900 has focused on small landholdings without much regard for the large potential contribution that large landholdings may make to the high value crop program and to the development of the agricultural sector in general. Without disregarding the intent of the law to provide additional economic opportunities to small and marginalized farmers, it may be argued that large landholdings, inasmuch as they have the proven capacity to significantly contribute to agricultural productivity by participating in this program, should also be provided as much opportunities and incentives as small landholdings.

Thus, the following amendments are proposed to expand the reach of the opportunities offered by RA 7900. This amendment seeks to include various-sized farms in the coverage of RA 7900 to provide the private sector more encouragement to be active in spearheading pilot projects and model farms planted to high value crops.

It is for the above reasons that the urgent passage of this bill is recommended.


BENASING O. MACARAMBON JR.

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**AN ACT TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7900 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
'HIGH VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995' AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSE**

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

SECTION 1. Sections 3, 5, and 7 of Republic Act No. 7900 otherwise known as the High Value Crops Development Act of 1995 and for other purposes are hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3. Scope of Application. This Act shall cover, **BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO**, upland dwellers as well as lowland tenants, indigenous and cultural communities, Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) beneficiaries, upland farm owners, farmers, farmers' organizations/associations/cooperatives, community associations and farmworkers, and to the extent herein provided, the departments, offices, agencies, subdivisions, branches of instrumentalities in the areas.

SECTION 5. Site Identification. The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Environment of Natural Resources, and the municipal government concerned, **ALONG WITH PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE OR VOLUNTEERS**, shall identify broad areas suitable for high value crops production, within six (6) months after effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That such site identification shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure consistency with agrarian reform program and the national land use policy.

SECTION 7. Farm Model. For the Program, (farmers may adopt) **PORTIONS OF LARGE LANDHOLDINGS NOT COVERED UNDER CARP MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LANDLESS FARMERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF** the cooperative system in putting up economically-sized farms for high value crop farming. Farmer members shall collectively manage individual farms which includes contracting process and means of production; planning and coordination crop varieties; and raising breed, hectarage, distribution and some

production measures with reference to the market it shall serve. Said farm models may be replicated by farmers. Organizations all over the country.

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly: *Provided*, however, that nothing in this Act shall be construed or applied as amending the CARP and other laws on Agrarian Reform.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause. If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall be effective fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,