

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2390

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE RADEN C. SAKALURAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the introduction of the palm oil plantation in the Philippines way back in the late 1960's its expected rapid growth still remains to be seen while local demands for palm oil rose at impressive pace because of the needs of the food and industrial manufacturing companies.

If given full government attention and support, palm oil production could play a significant role towards the country's economic development as an import substitute and as a major export worldwide. It is for this reason that this bill is being introduced seeking to establish a Palm oil Research and Development Institute.

One of this bill's most important roles is to develop new technologies that will help improve the lives of poor palm oil farmers and consumers. These technologies are then offered—public goods – to the Institute's partners in the palm oil producing regions and consuming nations of the world.

This bill also seeks to established a communication lines among scientist concerned with development of improved technology for palm oil farming systems and act as a mechanism to help scientists and researchers keep each other informed of current palm oil research findings which are meant to develop palm oil industry in the Philippines and transform the country from an import dependent on palm oil into a major world exporter of the industry.

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


RADEN C. SAKALURAN

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**"AN ACT
CREATING THE PALM OIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFORE"**

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

SECTION 1. This Act Shall be known as "Palm Oil Research and Development Institute Act of 2007"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the declared policy of the state to promote sound agricultural development of the palm oil industry in order to find sustainable ways to improve the well being of present and future generations of palm oil farmers, consumers and industry player.

SECTION 3. There is hereby created the Palm Oil Research and Development Institute, herein after referred to as institute under the Department of Science and Technology.

SECTION 4. The Institute shall have the following objectives:

- a. To conduct research on the palm oil and on all phases of palm oil production, related production system management, distribution and utilization, towards attaining nutritive and economic and ecological benefits for the people of palm oil consuming regions and countries and other major palm oil growing areas of the world, through improvement in the quality and quantity of palm oil;
- b. To publish and disseminate research findings of the Institute and to promote the exchange and distribution of new technologies, research methods, tools and improved plant materials to research centers where they may be of significance to achieve the Institute's goal and objective;
- c. To train promising young scientists in the field of research on palm oil production, post harvest technology, and other related subjects relevant to improve directly or indirectly the production of palm oil through resident and joint training programs;
- d. To operate an information center, including a library, which will provide, among others, interested scientists and scholars everywhere access to an updated collection of the world's literature on palm oil;
- e. To collaborate and foster cooperation and collaboration among different research institutions.

SECTION 5. In furtherance of the aforesaid objectives, the Institute shall have incidental powers:

- a. To acquire or obtain from any governmental authority, national, municipal or local, foreign or domestic, or otherwise, and from any corporation, company, association, person or other entity such charters, franchises, licenses, rights, privileges, assistance, financial or otherwise, and concessions as are conducive to and necessary for the attainment of the purpose of the Institute;
- b. To receive and acquire from any person, firm or entity, by donation, grant, exchange, devise, bequest, purchase, or lease, either absolutely or in trust, contribution consisting of such properties, real or personal, including funds and valuable effects or things, as may be useful or necessary to carry out the purpose and objectives of the Institute, and to hold, own, operate, use or dispose of said properties or valuable things;
- c. To do and perform all acts and things as are necessary, expedient, suitable or proper for the furtherance or accomplishments of the purpose and the attainment of any or all of the objectives herein stated, or which shall appear, at any time, as conducive to and useful for the activities of the Institute.
- d. To conduct conferences, workshops and seminars for the purpose of discussing current problems and developing research strategies for enhancing the living conditions of rice farmers in all ecosystems.

SECTION 6. The headquarters, research facilities, and experimental farms of the Institute shall be located in the Province of Sultan Kudarat. The Institute may have such other offices, research facilities, and experimental farms within the Philippines, as the Board of Trustees may determine or its affairs may from time to time require.

SECTION 7. The work of the Institute shall be carried out by:

- a. *A Board of Trustees;*
- b. *The Officers of the Institute;*
- c. *The Staff.*

SECTION 8. The Board of Trustees. The Institute shall be governed by a Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") composed of seven (7) Members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines to wit:

- a. Three (3) members from the national government who shall come from the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry which shall be nominated by their respective secretaries;
- b. Two (2) members from the palm oil industry
- c. One (1) from the palm oil farmer
- d. One from the host provincial government

SECTION 9. The Board of Trustees shall serve for a term of three (3) years commencing from the first day of January following his/her appointment until the assumption to office of his/her successor. In case of death, resignation or permanent disability of a Trustee, the resulting vacancy may be filled by presidential appointment, and the successor so appointed shall serve only for the unexpired terms of his/her predecessor.

SECTION 10. Officers. The officers of the Institute shall be the Chairman of the Board, the Vice Chairman of the Board, the Director General, the Treasurer of the Board, the Secretary of the Board and such other officers as the Board of Trustees see fit to designate. All officers shall be elected by majority vote of all members of the Board.

SECTION 11. The Chairman of the Board and the Vice Chairman of the Board, who shall be chosen from among the Trustees, shall be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Board, or in the absence of election at that meeting, at a subsequent meeting of the Board, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Board or until the election of their respective successors. The Chairman, or in his/her absence or disability, the Vice Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Board and supervise all matters with which the Board is concerned. In the absence or disability of both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, the Board shall designate from among their own number an Acting Chairman.

SECTION 12. The Director General is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute and shall directly manage and administer the affairs of the Institute in accordance with the policies and decisions of the Board. He/She shall be an ex officio member of the Board without voting rights and of all standing committees of the Board;

SECTION 13. The Treasurer of the Board, who need not be chosen from the Trustees, shall be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Board, or in the absence of the election at that meeting, at a subsequent meeting of the Board, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Board or until the election of his/her successor. He/She shall be the principal custodian of the funds, assets and properties of the Institute. His/Her powers and duties shall be those customarily incident to his/her office. The Board may, however, require him/her to perform such other duties and render such report or reports as are necessary or expedient.

SECTION 14. The Secretary of the Board, who need not be chosen from the Trustees, shall be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Board, or in the absence of election at that meeting, at a subsequent meeting of the Board, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Board or until the election of his/her successor. His/Her powers and duties shall be those customarily incident to his/her office. The Board may, however, require him/her to perform such other duties and render such report or reports as are necessary or expedient.

SECTION 15. The Board of Trustees is empowered to create such other offices and designates officers thereof as may be required by the circumstances and as may be necessary to promote the purpose or objectives of the Institute.

SECTION 16. Any and all officers elected by the Board of Trustees shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board.

SECTION 17. The Staff. The staff shall be composed of the Director General and such technical and administrative staff as the Institute may require.

SECTION 18. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of a minimum of three (3) Trustees to be appointed by the Board.

SECTION 19. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the Board in the interim between Board meetings on matters delegated to it by the Board. In particular, it will conduct periodic budget reviews. Any act or resolution of said Committee shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members of said Committee.

SECTION 20. The Chairman of the Board shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee who shall preside over all meetings of said Committee. In his/her absence or disability, the members present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting.

SECTION 21. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month. Special meetings shall be held upon call of its Chairman or upon request of at one (1) member.

SECTION 22. Any vacancy in the Executive Committee shall be filled from among the other members of the Board by election by the Board, or by the remaining members of the Executive Committee. Any person so elected by the Committee shall serve only until the next meeting of the Board.

SECTION 23. There shall be a Program Committee composed of a minimum of three (3) Trustees to be appointed by the Board.

SECTION 24. The Program Committee shall have the duty to draw, approve, review, evaluate and revise all research and training programs and activities of the Institute, and to exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated to it by the Board. Any act or resolution of said Committee shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members of said Committee.

SECTION 25. The program Committee shall elect, from among its members, a Chairman who shall preside over all meetings of said Committee. In his/her absence or disability, the members present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting.

SECTION 26. The Program Committee shall meet at least once every quarter. Special meetings may be held upon call by its Chairman or upon request of at least (3) members.

SECTION 27. Any vacancy in the Program Committee shall be filled from among the other members of the Board by election by the Board, or by the remaining members of the Program Committee. Any person so elected by the Committee shall serve only until the next meeting of the Board.

SECTION 28. The members of all standing committees shall be appointed by the Board at each annual meeting of the Board.

SECTION 29. The Board may constitute, from time to time, such other standing committees as may be necessary.

SECTION 30. An amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter the amount necessary for the operations of the Institute shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 31. This Act shall take effect upon its approval and completion of its publication in at least one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.