

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4509



Introduced by Honorable Carlos M. Padilla

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Citrus Resources Development Center in the Nueva Vizcaya State University in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Citrus is one of the most important commercially grown fruits worldwide with a global production of over 102 million metric tons. The Philippines contributes 163,090 metric tons or 16% to the total world production. Citrus ranks fourth among the fruit crops with the greatest contribution to the country's economy, next to banana, mango and pineapple. Citrus plantations in the Philippines cover an area of more than 35,000 hectares. Production-wise, citrus is not far behind especially with calamondin, mandarin and pomelo which the Philippines widely grows and from which many by-products are made due to their promising potentials for development and global competitiveness.

Nueva Vizcaya is considered the citrus capital of our country. Its soil and climate are conducive for propagating citrus varieties. The area is well-known for its "*Vizcaya oranges*" which are harvested from July to January every year and are brought to different urban markets in Luzon through local traders. Although the country produces enough citrus not only for Philippine consumption but also for export, still a lot of the fruits go to waste. One of the major constraints identified is the inefficient postharvest handling system and the key to good postharvest handling is careful harvesting. It is ideal that farmers should maintain postharvest conditions so that deterioration is minimized and quality at its best is preserved. But that is easier said than done since most of the citrus farmers lack the training,

knowledge, equipment and necessary facilities to properly handle their produce. Farmers also lack promotional strategies to expand their markets.

There is therefore a great need to establish a Philippine Citrus Resources and Development Center to conduct research and training on generating cost effective and efficient technologies, postharvest handling, processing and related studies that will be beneficial to the citrus industry specially for small scale producers. The approval of this bill will harness the potentials of the citrus industry as a dollar earner that will augment the revenues of the government that can be used to deliver more basic services to the people.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.


CARLOS M. PADILLA

1 SEC. 2. *Philippine Citrus Resources Development Center.* – The
2 Philippine Citrus Resource Development Center, hereinafter referred to as the
3 Citrus Center, is hereby established to pursue programs and projects that will
4 develop and promote production, processing and utilization of citrus and its
5 various products to improve the quality of life of communities where citrus is
6 currently or will be grown.

7 The Citrus Center shall be the central administrative body responsible for the
8 development, implementation and evaluation of plans, programs, institutional,
9 research and development of the citrus industry in the Philippines. It shall integrate
10 and conduct researches, development, education and training on citrus all over the
11 country.

12 The Citrus Center shall have its main office at the Nueva Vizcaya State
13 University in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

14 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The Citrus Center shall have the following
15 objectives:

16 a) To institutionalize a national system of strategic policies and
17 directions for citrus resources and development program to increase quality
18 production and meet the growing demand of the highly competitive market;

19 b) To encourage and sustain the levels of investment in the development
20 and production of the citrus industry and related industries;

1 c) To enhance the productivity of small and large scale citrus farmers by
2 equipping them with the latest and appropriate technologies to meet the standards
3 of the globally competitive market;

4 d) To promote science and technology research and development in the
5 field of citrus industry;

6 e) To develop technologies that will improve the over-all productivity
7 and growth of the citrus industry; and

8 f) To train farmers, students and workers on production, postharvest
9 handling, primary processing and marketing of citrus.

10 SEC. 4. ***Duties and Functions.*** – The Citrus Center shall exercise the
11 following duties and functions:

12 a) Prepare and implement the short, medium and long term Philippines
13 Citrus Development Plan;

14 b) Establish and operate satellite citrus centers in Luzon, Visayas and
15 Mindanao to implement the citrus development plan;

16 c) Acquire by negotiation or by expropriation private agricultural
17 properties which are deemed necessary in the furtherance of its objectives;

18 d) Plan and construct buildings and other facilities, and purchase, obtain
19 and acquire machineries, materials and equipment locally and abroad as may be
20 necessary to pursue its purpose and objectives;

1 e) Assign, contract, operate, rent, lease or sell to citrus farmers the
2 machineries, equipment, materials and supplies for the production, handling,
3 transport, warehousing and processing of citrus;

4 f) Enter into agreements with other institutions or organization, private
5 or public, local or national;

6 g) Receive and manage grants, aid, donations or any kind of assistance
7 for achieving its objectives;

8 h) Obtain the services of scholars, scientist and technical personnel for
9 the purpose of their training, research and development activities;

10 i) Promulgate and enforce rules and regulations governing the
11 production, processing and trade of citrus; and

12 j) Exercise all other duties and functions necessary to carry out the
13 purpose of this Act.

14 SEC. 5. *Advisory Council.* – The Citrus Center shall have an Advisory
15 Council which shall formulate the policies and directions for the implementation of
16 the citrus center programs. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the
17 following:

18 a) Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairperson;

19 b) President of the Nueva Vizcaya State University, as Vice
20 Chairperson;

- c) Secretary of Science and Technology;
- d) Secretary of Trade and Industry;
- e) Executive Director of the Philippine Citrus Resources Development Center;
- f) One representative from the private sector to be chosen among citrus product manufacturers; and
- g) One representative from the citrus farmers organizations, as members.

SEC. 6. ***Power and Functions.*** – The Advisory Council shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a) Review annually the plans and programs of the Citrus Center;
- b) Prepare the operational guidelines pertaining to the organizational management structure, staffing pattern, staff development, salaries, honoraria and disbursement powers of the Executive Director; and
- c) Prepare such other regulations that will ensure the realizations of the objectives and functions of the Citrus Center.

SEC. 7. ***Executive Director.*** – The Citrus Center shall be headed by the Executive Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the list recommended by the Advisory Council. The Executive Director shall function as the Secretary of the Advisory Council.

1 SEC.8. *Duties of the Executive Director.* – The Executive Director shall
2 have the following duties:

3 a) Exercise over-all supervision and direction over the implementation of
4 all resources and development programs of the Citrus Center and, in general, to
5 supervise and direct the management, operation and administration of the Citrus
6 Center;

7 b) Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets and
8 deliver documents on behalf of the Citrus Center;

9 c) Approve the organizational structure, staffing pattern, operating and
10 capital expenditures of the Citrus Center;

11 d) Recommend the officers and employees of the Citrus Center on the
12 basis of the highest possible standards of merit and fitness for public servants
13 subject to the civil service laws, rules and regulations;

14 e) Implement and enforce policies, decisions, orders, rules and
15 regulations issued by the Department of Agriculture; and

16 f) Exercise such other powers and functions as may be authorized or
17 delegated.

18 SEC. 9. *Annual Report.* – The Executive Director shall submit to the
19 President of the Philippines, through the Secretary of Agriculture, an annual report
20 of the activities and operations of the Citrus Center.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount of fifty million (P50,000,000.00)

pesos is hereby appropriated for the initial operating expenses of the Philippine Citrus Resources and Development Center. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days

from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared

unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations

and other issuance, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,