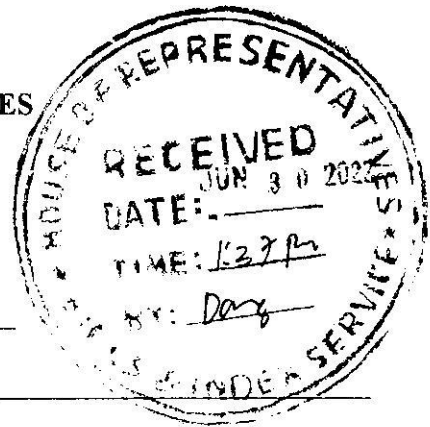


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 151



Introduced by **HON. FERNANDO T. CABREDO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to develop the root crops industry in the Bicol Region through the establishment of a Bicol Regional Root Crops Research and Development Center in the City of Ligao in the Province of Albay. The Center shall among others, undertake and conduct research and technical studies on the development, production, management, marketing and promotion of root crops and its by-products. It shall also provide technical assistance to root crops farmers and other stakeholders in the Region.

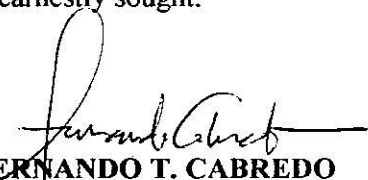
The Center shall be linked and integrated to the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center (PRCRTC) system to ensure the collaboration and coordination in the delivery of development and research services.

Coconut used to be the major produce of Bicol. However, it is highly vulnerable to typhoons that can easily wipe out years of hard work and expectations of income for the coconut farmer. Other problems that beset coconut are diseases, vulnerability to world price fluctuations, the aging of the current crop of coconut trees, and low allocation on research and development.

It is therefore high time that an alternative source of income such as root crops should be developed in the Region.

Root crops have broad adaptability that allows them to be produced even under unfavorable conditions such as drought and poor soils and even typhoons. They are also a rich source of nutrition, are affordable, and are a primary source of sustenance for many people, especially in developing countries.

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


FERNANDO T. CABREDO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 151

Introduced by **HON. FERNANDO T. CABREDO**

AN ACT
DEVELOPING THE ROOT CROPS INDUSTRY IN THE BICOL REGION,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BICOL *REGIONAL* ROOT CROPS
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND THE ROOT CROPS
SUBSIDY FUND, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Bicol Regional Root Crops Research and Development Center in the Bicol Region Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, support, and strengthen the root crops industry in the Bicol Region, thus providing livelihood opportunities to root crops farmers in the Region.

SECTION 3. Creation of the Bicol Regional Root Crops Research and Development Center. - Within a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be established the BICOL Root Crops Research and Development Center in the City of Ligao, Province of Albay. The Center shall be attached to the Bicol University.

SECTION 4. Functions of the Bicol Regional Root Crops Research and Development Center. - The Bicol Regional Root Crops Research and Development Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Undertake and conduct research and technical studies on the development, production, management, marketing and promotion of root crops and its by-products.
- b. Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings on root crops on a regular basis for the benefit of root crops farmers and other stakeholders nationwide.
- c. Provide technical assistance and support to root crops farmers and producers and other stakeholders in the Bicol Region.

- d. Develop improved production and harvesting techniques and effective cropping systems for root crops;
- e. Develop high yielding, good quality, and pest resistant varieties of sweet potato, cassava, gabi, and other root crops;
- f. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research and development work on root crops;
- g. Develop a Bicol Regional Root Crops Development Roadmap / Program that is in agreement and aligned with the National Root Crop Research and Development Roadmap spearheaded by the Philippine Root Crops Research and Training Center (PRCRTC);
- h. Provide and develop marketing tools for root crops and its by-products;
- i. Establish standards in grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, packaging, preservation, conservation, and transportation of root crops and its by-products;
- j. Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Bicol University, local government units, other concerned government agencies, and other stakeholders in order to consolidate all policies, programs, and projects on root crops research and development;
- k. Develop an organisational structure for the Center that shall be prepared by the Bicol State University and approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- l. Form a linkage with PRCRTC and act as one of the cooperating agencies/centers under the national root crops network to ensure the collaboration and coordination in the delivery of development and research services; and
- m. Perform such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the root crops industry.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DA and DENR, in collaboration with DTI, DOST, and the Bicol University, shall issue and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. - For effective implementation of this Act, the amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php 200,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the current and annual budgetary allocations of the DA, fifty percent (50%) of which shall serve as the initial amount for the Root Crops Subsidy Fund under Section 5 of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the DA and under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,