

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1713**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

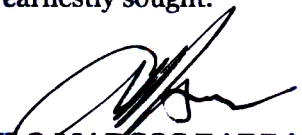
The corn is one of the most valuable crops in the Philippines, second to rice.¹ With about fourteen (14) million Filipinos considering corn as their staple food, and about six hundred thousand (600,000) farm households relying on corn as their primary source of livelihood², its significance in the country's agricultural landscape and Filipino way of life cannot be overstated.

The Philippine corn industry at present has seen a recent increase in production, thereby seeing the apparent potential of the same for export due to surplus.³ However, the industry remains relatively underdeveloped and faces challenges, such as high production costs, seeds, fertilizers, labor, environmental and topographical concerns, which largely affect the entirety of the country's corn industry---both in quantity and quality.

While the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) have research institutions under their wing specializing in major crops and other related industries research, there is yet to have a specialized research bureau that shall be tasked to conduct such intensive studies for corn, an undervalued crop that has so much potential.

In line with the foregoing concern, this measure has been crafted. This legislation aims to fully develop and utilize corn as one of the most essential crops in the country, primarily in the pursuit of food security and self-sufficiency.

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


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

¹Exconde, O. (n.d.). *Corn in the Philippines: Its Production and Research Activities With Emphasis on Downy Mildew*. Retrieved 4 September 2023, from <https://www.jircas.go.jp/sites/default/files/publication/tars/tars8-21-30.pdf>

²Corn Program (n.d.). Department of Agriculture-Regional Office III (DA-RFO III) website. Retrieved 4 September 2023, from <https://rfo3.da.gov.ph/corn-program/>

³Philippines ready to export corn; surplus harvest seen in 2017. (2017, January 19). *Department of Agriculture website*. Retrieved 4 September 2023, from <https://www.da.gov.ph/philippines-ready-to-export-corn-surplus-harvest-seen-in-2017/>

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AN ACT
PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CORN INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CORN
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PHILCORN), AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Corn Industry Development Act of 2025.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State hereby declares its policy to promote and support the development of the corn industry, increase the income of corn farmers and farm workers through improved productivity, product diversification, and employment generation.

To achieve these goals, the State shall establish productivity improvement programs, provide the necessary infrastructure support, enhance research and development on product diversification, provide human resource development and extension services, and provide financial assistance to small corn farmers and farm workers.

SECTION 3. *Corn Industry Development Committee.* - The Corn Industry Development Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is hereby created under the Office of the President, and shall be composed the following members:

- (a) Secretary of Department of Agriculture (DA) as Chairman;
- (b) Secretary of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);

- (c) Director General of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- (d) Secretary of Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- (e) Secretary of Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (f) Commissioner of Commission of Higher Education (CHED);
- (g) Commissioner of Professional Regulation Commission (PRC);
- (h) Secretary of National Economic Development Authority (NEDA);
- (i) Secretary of Department of Transportation (DOTr);
- (j) Secretary of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- (k) Representative of Philippine Ports Authority (PPA);
- (l) Representative of National Irrigation Administration (NIA);
- (m) Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and
- (n) Commissioner of Bureau of Customs (BOC).

The Committee is hereby mandated to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 4. *Productivity Improvement Programs.* - To boost the production of corn, and increase the incomes of corn farmers and farm workers, the following Productivity Improvement Programs shall be implemented:

- (a) *Farm Support Program* - The Committee, particularly Department of Agriculture (DA) shall make available a support program which shall include, among others, the provision of socialized credit, and farm management and technical assistance services. Socialized credit shall be made available, through the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), for the acquisition of farm inputs, farm machineries and implements necessary for the continuous production of corn: Provided that the loans shall be made available to corn farmers duly registered with the DA: Provided, further, that the lender shall have a lien on the harvest of farmers who obtained the loan until the crop loan is fully paid: Provided, finally, that farmer borrowers cannot be granted another loan until existing loans are fully paid. Farm Management

and Technical Assistance Services - The Committee, particularly the DA, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and other concerned private and non-government organizations (NGOs), shall formulate and implement a deployment program of agricultural engineers, agriculturists and farm technicians for the provision of farm management and technical assistance services to corn farmers.

- (b) *Farm Mechanization Program* - Corn farmers and farm workers shall be encouraged and trained to utilize appropriate agricultural machinery and equipment necessary for the efficient planting, cultivation, care and maintenance, harvesting and handling of corn and its by-products. The Committee, particularly the DA, in partnership with local government units (LGUs), consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10601, otherwise known as the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law, Shall: Introduce and expand the use of machineries for the different stages of and corn farming; and, Formulate and implement a Corn Farm Mechanization Program at the barangay level. To develop and deploy appropriate machineries and equipment, the Committee particularly the DA, through its research centers, in collaboration with the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, the Bureau of Agricultural Research, SUCs, other concerned government agencies, and industry stakeholders, shall formulate and conduct research development and extension programs for corn farm mechanization and engineering.

SECTION 5. *Research and Development.* - The Committee, particularly the DA, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as well as relevant SUCs, and government research and development institutions, and the private sector, shall intensify researches on high yielding or flood resistant corn varieties; pest control and prevention; latest farming and harvesting technologies; soil analysis and fertility mapping of corn areas; weather monitoring and climate change adaptation measures; and other viable products that can be derived from corn

SECTION 6. *Extension Services.* - Extension services that can be provided shall include, but not limited to, provision of technical assistance

and advice, conduct of tests, propagation, and dissemination of high yielding varieties, and operation of demonstration farms.

SECTION 7. *Human Resources Development.* — The Committee, particularly the DOLE, in collaboration with the DA, the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), the TESDA, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and the private sector, shall formulate and implement a Human Resources Development (HRD) Master Plan for the corn industry which shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Capacity-building, skills trainings, institutional strengthening of corn industry workers and small farmers and their organizations to actively contribute in productivity and competitiveness;
- (b) Conduct of capability trainings or attendance to local or international trainings and seminars by corn farmers and farm workers on the latest technologies related to corn farming and production of other products from corn;
- (c) Formulation and implementation of competency standards and training regulations for technical vocational education and training for the corn industry by the TESDA;
- (d) Scholarship programs for the underprivileged but deserving college and postgraduate students who are taking up courses in relevant fields of discipline in SUCs which have programs in agriculture, agricultural engineering and mechanics, and chemical engineering; and for vocational courses and skills development for farmers and farm technicians and skilled corn farm workers; and
- (e) Upgrading of facilities, faculty development and strengthening of the on-the-job training programs for agri-based higher education institutions in corn areas towards the production of highly employable and globally competitive graduates needed by the corn industry.

SECTION 8. *Infrastructure Support.* - To facilitate the transport, marketing and export of corn produce and other products derived therefrom, and complement productivity improvement measures in this Act, transport infrastructures, farm-to market roads and irrigation facilities shall be provided.

- (a) *Transport Infrastructures* — The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Transportation (DOTR), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and

the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) shall include in their annual Development Plans and Priority Investment Programs the immediate construction and/or improvement of existing transloading ports for coast-wide transport, sale or export of corn products in key corn producing areas.

(b) *Farm-to-Market Roads* — The NEDA, the DA, the DPWH, and concerned local government units (LGUs), shall include in their annual Priority Investment Programs the immediate construction and/or rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads in key corn producing areas.

(c) *Irrigation* — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), and concerned LGUs, in coordination with the DA, shall construct appropriate, efficient and cost effective irrigation facilities, pump and other pressurized irrigation systems, rain capture and water impounding facilities in corn producing areas. The DA and NIA shall include in its annual budget the item or provision on construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, rain capture and water impounding facilities in corn producing areas.

SECTION 9. *Classification and Regulation of Supply of Corn.*

- The Committee, particularly the DA, in the exercise of its regulatory authority, shall classify imported corn according to their appropriate classification when imported at a time that domestic productions are sufficient to meet domestic requirements. The Bureau of Customs (BOC) shall require importers or consignees to secure from the DA the classification of the imported corn prior to its release.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* - In the succeeding years from the effectivity of this Act, the amount of Four billion pesos (P 4,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated annually and to be allocated as follows:

- (a) Twenty percent (20%) for socialized credit under the Farm Support and Farm Mechanization Programs;
- (b) Fifteen percent (15%) for research and development, capability-building and technology transfer activities under Research and Development, Extension Services and Human Resources Development;

(c) Fifteen percent (5%) for scholarship grants to be provided under paragraph (d) of Section 7 of this Act; and

(d) Fifty percent (60%) for infrastructure support programs.

In the identification and prioritization of specific programs and projects, the Committee, particularly the DA, shall conduct prior consultations with corn farmers and farm workers, and producers of corn by-products. The Committee shall issue the necessary guidelines for this purpose.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Committee shall create the implementing rules and regulations for this Act within ninety (90) days of its enactment, in consultation with relevant government agencies and corn industry stakeholders.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,