

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

**4006**  
HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_



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Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS (UPLB)**  
**INSTITUTE OF PLANT BREEDING AS THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR PLANT**  
**BREEDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY,**  
**DEFINING ITS MANDATE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Food security begins with seeds. High-yielding, climate-resilient, pest- and disease-resistant crop varieties are essential to guarantee a stable and affordable food supply for every Filipino household. Without a strong foundation in plant breeding and seed research, the country will remain dependent on imported seeds and vulnerable to climate shocks, pests, and global market volatility.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) was created in 1975 through Presidential Decree No. 729 as a national research institute devoted to developing superior crop varieties and promoting seed technology. Since then, the IPB has released more than eighty (80) registered and commercially distributed crop varieties, including hybrids of rice, corn, vegetables, legumes, and root crops. These varieties have contributed significantly to increasing farm productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and improving farmer incomes.

The IPB also serves as the country's primary repository of plant genetic resources, maintaining germplasm collections and conducting advanced biotechnology and molecular breeding research. Its laboratories and experimental fields have produced varieties tolerant to floods, drought, and saline soils—traits that are critical in adapting Philippine agriculture to climate change.

Despite its pioneering role, the IPB remains under-recognized compared to specialized institutions such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) for rice or the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) for coconuts. This bill seeks to institutionalize UPLB-IPB as the

**National Center for Plant Breeding Research and Development for Food Security.** Doing so will strengthen its mandate, provide stable and sustainable funding, and ensure that plant breeding is placed at the heart of the country's food security strategy.

By designating IPB as the national hub for plant breeding, this measure will:

1. Consolidate and coordinate plant breeding research across universities, government research centers, and private sector laboratories;
2. Guarantee continuous development of improved varieties of rice, corn, vegetables, legumes, and indigenous staples;
3. Preserve genetic diversity and reduce the Philippines' dependence on imported seed varieties;
4. Provide training and technical support to farmers, cooperatives, and Local Government Units (LGUs) on seed systems; and
5. Contribute directly to the goals of the Philippine Development Plan and the country's commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

Agriculture is the backbone of food sovereignty, and seeds are its building blocks. Institutionalizing the UPLB Institute of Plant Breeding as the National Center for Plant Breeding Research and Development for Food Security ensures that the Philippines invests in its scientific capacity to secure a future where Filipino farmers can plant locally developed varieties, Filipino consumers can afford nutritious food, and the nation as a whole can face climate and market risks with resilience.

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

  
**RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “*National Plant Breeding Research and Development Center Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to achieve food security and sovereignty through science, innovation, and sustainable agriculture. The State recognizes the critical role of plant breeding in ensuring the availability of climate-resilient, high-yielding, and pest- and disease-resistant crop varieties, and shall institutionalize the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) as the national hub for plant breeding research and development.

SEC. 3. *Designation as National Center.* The University of the Philippines Los Baños Institute of Plant Breeding is hereby declared as the *National Center for Plant Breeding Research and Development for Food Security.*

SEC. 4. *Mandate.* As the National Center, the UPLB-IPB shall:

(a) Conduct basic and applied research on plant breeding for food crops, industrial crops, and indigenous species;

(b) Develop and distribute improved varieties of rice, corn, vegetables, root crops, legumes, and other staples;

(c) Serve as the national repository of genetic resources and germplasm;

(d) Provide training and technical assistance to State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Government Units (LGUs), and farmer cooperatives;

(e) Collaborate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), and other institutions on seed systems and varietal improvement;

(f) Promote seed sovereignty by reducing dependence on imported seeds through locally developed varieties.

SEC. 5. *Network of Collaborating Institutions.* The IPB shall coordinate a national network of plant breeding research with State Universities and Colleges, government research centers, and private sector partners.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the University of the Philippines System. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology, and the University of the Philippines System shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,