



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4684



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JACKFRUIT
INDUSTRY IN EASTERN VISAYAS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE
THE JACKFRUIT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS,
ESTABLISHING THE JACKFRUIT SUBSIDY FUND, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. Moreover, Section 5, Article XIII recognizes the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program and mandates the State to recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program.

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the Philippine economy, providing livelihood to millions of Filipino farmers and contributing significantly to food security and rural development. Among the country's promising crops is the jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), which has long been cultivated in Eastern Visayas and other parts of the Philippines. Known for its versatility, jackfruit is

processed into a wide range of value-added products such as jams, candies, chips, flour, and even plant-based meat alternatives, thus holding strong potential for both domestic consumption and export markets.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture explains that jackfruit has many economic values – its leaves can be used as medicine in curing skin diseases, fodder for animals, and compost; its bark can be utilized in making rope and clothing; its wood can be an excellent source in making guitars and ukuleles; its trunk can be used as lumber or building material; latex can be used as paste or glue; its seeds, when grown, can be used as food for human consumption, feeds, or planting materials; and, its roots can be used as handle for farm implements.

Despite its potential, the jackfruit industry faces challenges such as low productivity, inadequate post-harvest facilities, lack of research and development, and limited market access. Smallholder farmers, who are the backbone of the industry, often lack the resources and technical support to maximize their yields and income. Without systematic intervention, the country risks underutilizing this crop that can generate jobs, create enterprises, and bolster local economies.

To revive and support the jackfruit industry in the country, this bill seeks to create Jackfruit Research and Development Centers, establish a Jackfruit Subsidy Fund, and designate Eastern Visayas as the Jackfruit Capital of the Philippines. By providing research, training, financial assistance, and market linkages, the proposed measure aims to enhance productivity, ensure the sustainability of jackfruit farming, and transform it into a globally competitive agro-industry.

This measure was also filed during the 19th Congress.

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



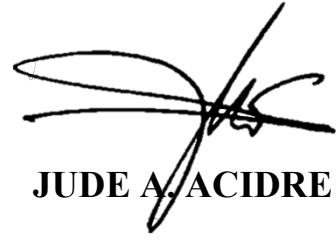
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

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ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, looped 'J' and 'A'.

JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 "*Jackfruit Industry Development Act.*"

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the development and strengthening of the jackfruit industry in the country, particularly in Eastern Visayas. Towards this end, the State shall formulate sound policies and effective measures and implement programs to ensure the promotion, sustainable growth, and competitiveness of the local jackfruit industry for the benefit of the farmers and other stakeholders, thus maximizing the full potential of jackfruits and securing a source of livelihood

and employment for the citizenry.

Section 3. *Jackfruit Research and Development Center.* – Within a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be established a Jackfruit Research and Development Center, hereinafter referred to as Center. The Center shall be under the supervision and control of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The Center shall maintain its principal office in Eastern Visayas. It may create satellite offices in other identified localities as may be subsequently deemed necessary.

Section 4. *Powers and Functions of the Jackfruit Research and Development Center.* – The Jackfruit Research and Development Center shall have the following powers and functions to advance sustainable and competitive jackfruit industry:

- a. Undertake and conduct, and if necessary, in partnership with relevant national government agencies, researches and technical studies on the development, production, processing, management, trade, and marketing of jackfruit and its other variants and by-products and accordingly plan, monitor, review, and evaluate programs and projects that shall advance the jackfruit industry;
- b. Formulate a Jackfruit Development Roadmap regularly;
- c. Provide technical assistance and support to those involved in the jackfruit industry, particularly to smallholder jackfruit farmers, through developing and conducting initiatives, seminars, trainings, and

programs in order to increase production of high-quality jackfruit and raise the level of income;

- d. Develop, acquire, and adopt appropriate materials, innovations, technologies, techniques, and other technical support assistance, including but not limited to providing assistance in securing crop insurance as well as in establishing linkages, beneficial to the jackfruit industry and ensure its accessibility to poor smallholder farmers;
- e. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research and development work on jackfruit and other necessary disciplines related to jackfruit production, utilization, and marketing;
- f. Publish and disseminate research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings relating to jackfruit on a regular basis with the end goal of benefiting jackfruit farmers, producers, manufacturers, and other stakeholders nationwide;
- g. Update standards, in coordination with Department of Trade and Industry, in classification, grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analyses, specifications regularly;
- h. Assist in the establishment of community-based jackfruit enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities, and encourage cooperative development among smallholder jackfruit farmers and provide them access to resources, technological know-how, as well as decision-making processes for the enhancement of their jackfruit enterprises and the protection of their welfare;

- i. Assist in the monitoring of the domestic supply of jackfruit and, when necessary, submit recommendations for the grant of related importation permits;
- j. Promote, establish, and manage jackfruit nurseries, plantations, and processing facilities that would accelerate the production and commercialization of jackfruit and all its variants;
- k. Promote the commercialization and market access of appropriate, innovative, and viable jackfruit industry development technologies and products;
- l. Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to consolidate all policies, programs, and projects on jackfruit research and development; and,
- m. Perform such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the jackfruit industry.

Section 5. *Executive Director of the Center.* – The Center shall be headed by the Executive Director who shall report directly to the Advisory Board.

The Executive Director shall be a recognized expert in jackfruit research and policy development, with at least three (3) years of experience in the jackfruit industry, and shall have strong organizational management background. The

Executive Director shall be appointed by the DA Secretary within sixty (60) calendar days after the effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act and upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board.

The Executive Director shall serve in full time capacity for a term of five (5) years which may be renewed. The Executive Director shall strictly avoid any conflict of interest in the conduct and performance of duties for the duration of the term.

Section 6. Powers and Function of the Executive Director of the Center.

– The Executive Director of the Center shall:

- a. Implement and enforce research and policy direction and priorities, policies, decisions, orders, rules, and regulations determined by the Advisory Board;
- b. Exercise administrative and supervisory functions over the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the policies, programs, and projects of the Center;
- c. Recommend the following to the Advisory Board:
 1. Organizational structure of the Center;
 2. Appointment of personnel, including research fellows, officers, and employees; and,
 3. Overall budget of the Center;
- d. Submit to the Advisory Board regular reports on the Center to include annual reports on operations, status of programs and projects, and the

financial condition of the Center;

- e. Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets, and deliver documents on behalf of the Center within the limits of the authority as determined by the Advisory Board;
- f. Generate and obtain logistical and financial support for the programs and component units of the Center with the assistance of the Advisory Board: *Provided*, That in so doing, no conflict of interest exists with the objectives of this Act and the functions of the Center;
- g. Not engage in any act that may result to a conflict of interest with the objectives, functions, and powers of the Center; and,
- h. Exercise and perform such other powers, functions, and duties as may be authorized or assigned by the Advisory Board and in accordance with the objectives of this Act.

Section 7. *Advisory Board.* – There is hereby created an Advisory Board, which is principally mandated to develop strategies, policies, and programs aimed at effectively harnessing the potential of the Philippine jackfruit industry and improving the state technologies to produce, process, and/or market high-quality jackfruits to meet global standards for competitiveness and product quality.

The Advisory Board shall be composed of the following:

- a. DA Secretary or his/her representative, as Chairperson;
- b. DTI Secretary or his/her representative, as Vice Chairperson;

- c. DOST Secretary or his/her representative;
- d. DENR Secretary or his/her representative; and,
- e. One (1) representative from the jackfruit farmers to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the DA Secretary, for a term of three (3) years.

Section 8. *Powers and Functions of the Advisory Board.* – The Advisory Board shall:

- a. Provide the general direction and priorities of the Center in accordance with this Act;
- b. Determine research and policy areas for study by the Center and an annual research agenda, in consultation with the Executive Director, based on the regular assessment of local and international developments affecting the jackfruit industry;
- c. Provide advice to the Center on any matter relating to the development of a research or policy area and the administration of research programs;
- d. Approve the organizational structure, appointment of personnel, and overall budget of the Center;
- e. Monitor and evaluate the implementation, efficiency, and effectiveness of the programs and projects undertaken by the Center;
- f. Assist the Executive Director in generating resources and obtaining logistical and financial support for the programs and component units of

the Center: *Provided*, That in so doing, no conflict of interest exists with the objectives of this Act and the functions of the Center; and,

- g. Assign additional powers, functions, and duties of the Executive Director in accordance with the objectives of this Act.

Section 9. *Jackfruit Subsidy Fund.* – There is hereby established a Jackfruit Subsidy Fund which shall be used to financially support the jackfruit industry. The fund shall be used for the following:

1. Jackfruit tree planting and cultivation;
2. Research and technical studies;
3. Skills training and capital development for the jackfruit industry; and,
4. Other activities as may be deemed necessary by Center.

Section 10. *Jackfruit Capital of the Philippines.* – The Eastern Visayas shall be designated as the Jackfruit Capital of the Philippines.

Section 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA and DENR shall, in collaboration with DTI, DOST, issue and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to

implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws and parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,