



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5306

Introduced by Representative DE CARLO "OYO" L. UY

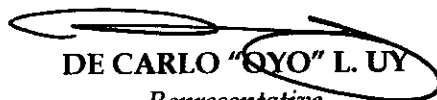
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The banana industry remains one of the Philippines' major sources of agricultural output and exports, providing income and employment opportunities particularly in Mindanao. However, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) show that banana production declined in the second quarter of 2025, from 2.19 million metric tons to 2.14 million metric tons. The Davao Region remained the top producer, accounting for 842.56 thousand metric tons or 39.4 percent of national output.

This downward trend highlights the industry's continued vulnerability to pests, diseases, and other production constraints. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 Midterm Update underscores the importance of strengthening early warning systems and anticipatory mechanisms to safeguard agricultural productivity and sustain the banana sector's contribution to the economy.

To address these challenges and fully harness the potential of the banana industry, this bill proposes the establishment of the Philippine Banana Research and Development Institute (PBRDI). Initially to be supported by the Bureau of Plant Industry - Region XI under the Department of Agriculture, the Institute will focus on developing disease-resistant and climate-resilient banana varieties, improving production and post-harvest processes, and ensuring the transfer of knowledge and technologies to both commercial and smallholder growers.

Moreover, its passage will contribute to sustaining the role of the banana industry in agricultural exports and securing better livelihoods for growers, especially in the major producing areas of Mindanao. In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


DE CARLO "OYO" L. UY
Representative
First District, Davao del Norte



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BANANA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Banana Research and
2 Development Institute (PBRDI) Act."

3
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to strengthen the banana
5 industry through science-based research and development, to develop and grow disease-
6 resistant varieties of bananas, to innovate sustainable farming systems, and to pave way for
7 inclusive growth for growers of all scales.

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9 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

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11 a) *Small-scale* banana grower refer to individuals, groups, corporations, or other entities
12 that own or lease 5 hectares of land or below and utilize the same for banana farming;
13 b) *Medium-scale* banana grower refer to individuals, groups, corporations, or other
14 entities that own or lease 6 to 24 hectares of land and utilize the same for banana
15 farming; and
16 c) *Large-scale* banana grower refer to individuals, groups, corporations, or other entities
17 that own or lease at least 25 hectares of land and utilize the same for banana farming.
18

19 **SECTION 4. Philippine Banana Research and Development Institute.** - The Philippine
20 Banana Research and Development Institute, (the Institute), is hereby established as an
21 attached agency of the Department of Agriculture. It shall be supported in its initial three
22 years of actual operation by the Bureau of Plant Industry Region XI (Davao Region) Office
23 until the Institute is self-reliant.
24

25 The Institute shall provide research and development studies on crop improvement,
26 protection, production, disease management, and post-harvest handling. It shall maintain the
27 banana germplasm collection and gene bank that will be used in breeding good quality
28 varieties of banana or banana varieties appropriate for domestic and international markets.
29

SECTION 5. *Duties and Functions.* – The Institute shall exercise the following duties and functions under four general pillars: (1) Research & Innovation, (2) Capacity Building & Support, (3) Industry Development, and (4) Governance & Linkages. In specific, the duties and functions of the of the Institute shall include, but are not limited to:

I. Research and Innovation

- a) Unifying, integrating, and supporting research and development efforts in the banana industry;
- b) Conducting relevant, continuous, and comprehensive research on developing prolific, high-yielding, climate-resilient, and disease-resistant varieties of banana, banana disease management and prevention, and soil and nutrition management for banana; and
- c) Managing and utilizing incomes generated from its operation and other income-generating activities to support research and development activities.

II. Capacity Building & Support

- a) Developing appropriate, cost-effective solutions and systems to achieve sustainability in banana production, postharvest handling, processing, quality control and assurance standards and marketing; including promotion of standards for sustainable and affordable bio-security measures and natural farming practices;
- b) Undertaking training and capacity-building programs for banana producers, processors and cooperatives and providing basic strategic research for developing technologies to increase production and utilization of quality banana produce and raise the income levels especially of marginalized stakeholders;
- c) Enabling banana producers, processors, and stakeholders to have access to quality banana seedlings, modern production and processing techniques and other support services from production to marketing; and
- d) Promoting cooperative development among stakeholders and provide access to resources, technological know-how, and decision-making processes for the enhancement of their banana social enterprise and welfare protection.

III. Industry Development

- a) Establishing and maintaining a germplasm collection and gene bank for bananas; and
- b) Promoting a robust banana industry.

IV. Governance & Linkages

- a) Aiding in the establishment of village-level-based banana social enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities and improve the general well-being of a large percentage of the workforce in agricultural communities;
- b) Establishing linkages and coordinating with local and international government instrumentalities, non-government organizations and private entities involved in the development of the banana industry; and
- c) Entering into memoranda of agreement and receiving grants from local and foreign funding agencies upon approval of the PBRDI Advisory Board.

79 **SECTION 6. *Executive Director.*** – The Institute shall be headed by an Executive Director
80 who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the
81 Secretary of Agriculture.

82
83 The Executive Director shall be a recognized agriculturist with extensive experience in
84 banana research and development or a proficient banana grower-specialist who is actively
85 involved in banana farming and production.

86
87 All other officers and employees of the Institute shall be appointed in accordance with
88 existing Civil Service law and rules and regulations.

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90 **SECTION 7. *Duties and Responsibilities.*** – The Executive Director shall exercise
91 the following duties and responsibilities:

- 92
93 a) Supervise and direct the Institute's management, operation, and administration and
94 exercise overall supervision and direction over the implementation of all its research
95 and development programs;
96 b) Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets and deliver
97 documents on behalf of the Institute;
98 c) Approve the organizational structure, staffing pattern, operating and capital
99 expenditures of the Institute;
100 d) Appoint the officers and employees of the Institute on the basis of the highest possible
101 standards of merit and fitness for public servants subject to the civil service laws, rules
102 and regulations;
103 e) Implement and enforce policies, decisions, orders, rules and regulations issued by the
104 Department of Agriculture; and
105 f) Exercise such other powers and functions and perform other duties that may be
106 authorized, delegated, or assigned by law.

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108 **SECTION 8. *Advisory Board.*** – The work and financial plans and programs of the Institute
109 shall be reviewed annually by the Advisory Board which shall be composed of:

- 110
111 a) The Director of the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research as
112 Chair;
113 b) The Executive Director of the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine
114 Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
115 (PCAARRD), as Vice Chairman;
116 c) The Director General of Department of Trade and Industry - Cooperative
117 Development Authority as a Member;
118 d) The Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -
119 Environmental Management Bureau as member;
120 e) The College President of the Davao Del Norte State College as a Member;
121 f) One (1) representative from a small-scale banana grower as member elected by the
122 members of the Advisory Board for a term of 2 years;
123 g) One (1) representative from a medium-scale banana grower as member elected by the
124 members of the Advisory Board for a term of 2 years;
125 h) One (1) representative from a large-scale banana grower as member elected by the
126 members of the Advisory Board for a term of 2 years; and
127 i) One (1) representative from a non-governmental organization (NGO) active in banana
128 production, research and development, and processing, elected by the members of the
129 Advisory Board for a term of 2 years.

131 **SECTION 9. *Quorum.*** – The presence of at least fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the
132 Advisory Board at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum. *Provided however,* that in
133 case of the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman shall preside the meeting.
134

135 **SECTION 10. *Annual Report.*** – The Executive Director shall submit to the President of the
136 Philippines, through the Secretary of Agriculture, an annual report generally dealing with the
137 activities and operations of the Institute, together with the audit report on the relevant
138 accounts.
139

140 **SECTION 11. *Donations and Solicitations.*** – The Institute may solicit and receive donations
141 or endowments of money, property, or services which shall be exempt from income or gift
142 taxes and all other taxes, charges, or fees imposed by the government or any political
143 subdivision or instrumentality thereof. Government corporations are hereby authorized to
144 give grants to the Institute from the unimpaired surplus of funds at their discretion.
145

146 **SECTION 12. *Levy.*** – To generate sustainable source of funding for the operations and
147 maintenance of the Institute, there shall be an amount levied from every box of banana
148 exported to other countries. The amount shall be borne by the banana growers, exporters, or
149 consolidators. The Advisory Board shall have the authority to determine the amount of the
150 mandatory levy.
151

152 **SECTION 13. *Special Fund.*** – The proceeds of the foregoing levy shall be set aside to
153 constitute a special fund to be known as the "Banana Research Development Fund", which
154 shall be available exclusively for the use of the Institute. All income and receipts derived from
155 the special fund herein created shall accrue to, and form part of, the said fund to be available
156 solely for the use of the Institute.
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158 **SECTION 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount of **FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (PHP**
159 **500,000,000.00)** necessary for implementing this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for
160 the Department of Agriculture's High Value Crops Development Program. Thereafter, such
161 sum as maybe necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Institute shall be included
162 in the annual General Appropriations Act.
163

164 In addition, the Banana Research Development Fund shall be available solely for the
165 use of the Institute. The Advisory Board will spearhead the budget planning and determine
166 the rates, apportionment, and utilization of the aforementioned amounts.
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168 **SEC. 15. *Revolving Fund.*** – Any and all savings and income of the Institute shall constitute a
169 revolving Fund which shall not be reverted to the General Fund and which shall be used by
170 the Institute in the furtherance of its goals and objectives.
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172 **SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one hundred twenty (120) days upon
173 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall issue the necessary rules and
174 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
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176 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or
177 invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
178 and effect.
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180 **SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and
181 other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
182 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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SEC. 19. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after five (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever date comes earlier.

Approved.