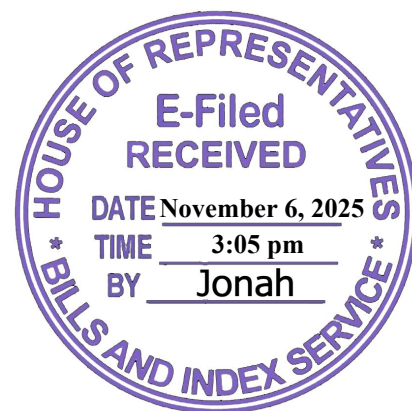


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5775



Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Representative, AGAP Party List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The corn industry continues to face various challenges despite the implementation of the Department of Agriculture's National Corn Program. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority report, corn production decreased at an average annual rate of 0.7 percent from 2022 to 2024¹. The PSA also noted that harvested area for yellow and white corn decreased in 2024 at 1.6 percent and 5.8 percent decline respectively, as well as the yield per hectare of yellow corn also decreased by 0.02 metric ton and white corn to 0.01 metric ton per hectare.

Corn comprises 6.7 percent share in value of production in agriculture and fisheries in 2023. White corn which is mainly used for human consumption as substitute for rice comprises 23.5% of the country's total corn production, while yellow corn which is mostly used for animal feeds comprises the bulk at 76.5%.

PSA data on white corn showed 1.9 million MT produced in 2024, while yellow corn produced were 6.226 million MT, with decrease in production of 6.2 percent and 2.3 percent respectively from 2023 data. A study from the Philippine Competition Commission noted that demand for white corn remain relatively flat, in contrast to the increasing demand for yellow corn in which the livestock, poultry, and even fisheries sector rely on for feeds². Stakeholders report that demand for yellow corn in 2022 reached 8.9 million metric tons. Thus, there is a recorded deficit in yellow corn supply, compelling the government to resort to importation.

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority (September 2025). Corn Production in the Philippines: 2022-2024. Retrieved from https://library.psa.gov.ph/kohaimages/PSA/ebookreader/viewebook.html?out=1&d=pdf/ee3f8a44927db54b6c11c59ce6cbe607_2022-2024CornProductioninthePhilippines.pdf&speech=1&ref=https://library.psa.gov.ph/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=35845&bibliionumber=35845#book/ on 10 October 2025.

² Salazar, A., Elca, C., Lapina G, and Salazar F. (2021). Issues Paper on Corn Industry in the Philippines. Philippine Competition Commission. Retrieved from https://www.phcc.gov.ph/storage/pdf-resources/1678085736_PCC-Issues-Paper-2021-01-Issues-Paper-on-Corn-Industry-in-the-Philippines.pdf on 04 November 2025.

Local production comprises majority of our feed supply. Hence, it is important to take note of post-harvest losses that significantly affect the quality and quantity of available feeds. It was reported that wet season crops have high pre-drying moisture content, but current small-scale mechanical dryers are not enough to meet demand, while solar drying was not deemed reliable in terms of quality.

Stakeholders also report that existing drying facilities can only accommodate seven (7) metric tons for drying at a time. Meanwhile, a hectare can produce 15 metric tons of corn. Hence, one (1) hectare worth of corn harvest can take up to 3-4 days to dry. Using 2023 data of 1.5 million hectares of corn harvest annually, existing drying facilities are insufficient. This is apart from the lack of storage facilities. Clearly, the yellow corn industry is in dire need of support.

As a complement and supplement of the Animal Competitiveness Enhancement Fund created by Republic Act No. 12308, otherwise known as the Animal Industry Development and Competitiveness Act, the Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund aims to ensure adequate supply of corn to support food production. This bill is filed, in consultation with stakeholders, to address the prevailing needs of the industry, particularly post-harvest facilities. As this bill puts primary focus on post-harvest facilities which the local farmers continuously ask for, it is hoped that we can produce quality corn, minimize post-harvest losses, and ensure profitable returns for farmers. This bill hopes to augment and improve local capacity and production in order to ensure food self-sufficiency in the coming years.

With the foregoing premises considered, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought. This bill is an amended version of House Bill No. 8783 filed during the 19th Congress.



NICANOR M. BRIONES
Representative
AGAP Partylist

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Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Representative, AGAP Party List

AN ACT
TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE THE CORN INDUSTRY, PROVIDING FOR A
CORN COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title of Act. - This Act shall be known as the " Corn Development and Competitiveness Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to promote the development and competitiveness of the corn industry, particularly among the small-hold farmers, in order to increase the supply of yellow corn to enhance the availability and affordability of feeds, as support to the livestock, poultry, and dairy industry, and white corn to augment food supply. It is likewise the policy of the State to increase the income of farmers and farm workers, and to alleviate rural poverty through improved productivity and competitiveness, enhanced production efficiency, and protection of the corn industry from pests and diseases through mechanization, extension and training support programs.

Towards this end, the State shall nurture an enabling environment and establish responsive government policies and support programs for the small-hold corn farmers and give prime focus to the development of the corn industry.

The State recognizes the vital role of the private sector as partners in the various facets of the corn industry, and the organization of corn farmers to be more competitive, and shall provide incentives and needed support to encourage stronger partnership and consolidation.

SEC. 3. Definition of terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms

and phrases shall mean as follows:

- a) *Corn* refers to yellow corn which is largely utilized for animal feed in the country, and white corn and other indigenous corn varieties for human consumption;
- b) *Feeds* refers to animal food for livestock, poultry, and dairy producing animals which includes, but not limited to yellow corn, forages, feed wheats. It also refers to the mixture of different products such as bran, sharps and other residues, other cereals, and leguminous plants such as beans, soybeans, peas, peanuts; residue of starch manufacture like manioc (cassava or sago), beet pulp, sugarcane pulp (bagasse, and brewing and distilling dregs and wastes; oil seeds (oil cakes) and other residues like ground nuts, cotton seeds, linseed, sunflower seeds, rape or colza seeds, coconut or copra, palm nuts or kernels and maize; vegetable materials and vegetable waste; and preparations used for animal feedings;
- c) *Small-hold Farmer* refers to a farmer owning or cultivating four (4) hectares or less of farmland;

SEC. 4. Corn Industry Development Roadmap. – The corn industry development principles and programs in this Act shall be incorporated and harmonized into the existing Corn Industry Development Roadmap and made integral to the roadmap henceforth.

SEC. 5. Creation of the Office of the Undersecretary for Corn Program. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) Office of the Undersecretary for Corn Program is hereby created. The Undersecretary for Corn must be a career officer of a Career Executive Service Officers who has at least ten (10) years of work experience with the DA and considerable exposure to programs and projects related to corn. The office shall have its own budget and plantilla of personnel.

SEC. 6. Duties and Functions of the Undersecretary for Corn Program. – The Undersecretary for Corn Program shall have the following duties and functions:

- a) Establish policies for the development of corn industry;
- b) Oversee, supervise, direct, and provide policy guidance in the implementation of the Corn Industry Development Roadmap and all programs under it;
- c) Establish a reliable, efficient, and holistic corn industry database management system which shall cater to the needs of the corn industry;
- d) Ensure well-planned, well-coordinated, and integrated interventions in the corn industry that are profitable for farmers and would enable them to be globally competitive;
- e) Monitor the use of the Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund under this Act;

- f) Develop effective consultations, engagements, and linkages among various stakeholders, local government units, and other government offices, the private sector, and allied sectors in the industrialization and modernization of the corn industry;
- g) Regularly report to the Secretary of the DA;
- h) Furnish the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFM) with annual reports on CCEF accrual and utilization under this Act; and
- i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 7. Role of the Bureau of Plant Industry. – The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) shall coordinate with other government institutions for the development of corn varieties which are pest- and weed-resistant, climate-resilient, adjusted to the country's or its regions' agro-climatic conditions, and which shall allow corn farmers to produce at the least expense, shorter production time, higher yield, and higher income. There shall be a corn gene bank of all the corn varieties developed under this Act.

The corn varieties developed by the BPI along with other government institutions shall be mass-produced for seed purposes for distribution to small-hold corn farmers, cooperatives, and associations, and local government units.

SEC. 8. Creation of the Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. — There is hereby created a Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, herein referred to as the "CCEF".

The CCEF shall consist of an annual appropriation of three billion pesos (Php 3,000,000,000.00) sourced from tariff collection on imported corn, feed wheat, feeds and other products and ingredients for feeds in the next six (6) years following the approval of this Act.

Corn Imports include imported products under the following Harmonized System (HS) headings or ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2022:

10.05 Maize (corn).
1005.90.99 - - Other
1005.90.99.100 - - - In-Quota
1005.90.99.200 - - - Out-Quota

Feed Wheat Imports include imported products under the following HS headings or 2022 AHTN Codes, and Descriptions:

10.01 Wheat and meslin.
- - - Other
1001.99.91 - - Meslin
1001.99.99 - - Other

Feeds and Other Products and Ingredients for Feeds Imports include

imported products under the following HS headings or 2022 AHTN Codes, and Descriptions:

- 10.03** - Barley
 - 1003.10.00 - Seed
 - 1003.90.00 - Other
- 10.04** - Oats
 - 1004.10.00 - Seed
 - 1004.90.00 - Other
- 10.07** Grain Sorghum
 - 1007.10.00 - Seed
 - 1007.90.00 - Other
- 10.08** Buckwheat, millet and canary seeds; other cereals.
 - 1008.10.00 -Buckwheat
 - Millet:
 - 1008.21.00 --Seed
 - 1008.29.00 --Other
 - 1008.30.00 -Canary seeds
 - 1008.40.00 -Fonio (*digitaria spp.*)
 - 1008.50.00 -Quinoa (*chenopodium quinoa*)
 - 1008.60.00 -Triticale
 - 1008.90.00 -Other cereals

23.01 Flour, meals and pellets, of meat or meat offal, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates, unfit for human consumption; greaves.

- 2301.10.00 - Flours, meals and pellets, of meat or meat offal; greaves
- 2301.20 - Flours, meals and pellets, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates
 - 2301.20.10 - Of fish, with a protein content of less than 60% by weight
 - 2301.20.20 - Of fish, with a protein content of 60% or more by weight
 - 2301.20.90 - Other

23.02 Bran, sharps, and other residues, whether or not in the forms of pellets, derived from the sifting, milling or other working of cereals or of leguminous plants.

- 2302.10.00 - Of maize (corn)
- 2302.30 - Of Wheat:
 - 2302.30.10 - - Brans and pollards
 - 2302.30.90 - - Other
- 2302.40 - Of other cereals:
 - 2302.40.10 - Of rice
 - 2302.40.90 - Other
- 2302.50.00 - Of leguminous plants

23.03 Residues of a starch manufacture and similar residues, beet-pulp, bagasse, and other waste of sugar manufacture, brewing or distilling

dregs and waste, whether or not in the form of pellets

2303.10 - Residues of starch manufacture and similar residues:

2303.10.10 - - Of manioc (cassava) or sago

2303.10.90 - - Other

2303.20.00 - Beet-pulp, bagasse and other waste of sugar manufacture

2303.30.00 - Brewing or distilling dregs and waste

23.04 Oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soya-bean oil.

- Soya-bean meal

2304.00.29 - - Other

2304.00.90 - Other

23.05 2305.00.00 Oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of ground-nut oil.

23.06 Oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the forms of pellets, resulting from the extraction of vegetable or microbial fats or oils, other than those of heading 23.04 or 23.05.

2306.10.00 - Of cotton seeds;

2306.20.00 - Of linseeds;

2306.30.00 - Of sunflower seeds;

- Of rape or colza seeds

2306.41 - - Of low erucic acid rape or colza seeds

2306.41.10 - - - Of low erucic acid rape seeds

2306.41.20 - - - Of low erucic acid colza seeds

2306.49 - - Other :

2306.49.10 - - - Of other rape seeds

2306.49.20 - - - Of other colza seeds

2306.50.00 - Of coconut or copra;

2306.60 - Of palm nuts or kernels;

2306.60.10 - - Ground or in the form of pellets

2306.60.90 - - Other

2306.90 - Other :

2306.90.10 - - Of maize (corn) germ

2306.90.90 - - Other;

23.07 2307.00.00 Wine lees; argol.

23.08 2308.00.00 Vegetable materials and vegetable waste, vegetable residues and by-products, whether or not in the form of pellets, of a kind used in animal feeding, not elsewhere specified or included

23.09 Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding.

2309.90 - Other

- - Complete feed :

2309.90.11 - - - Of a kind suitable for poultry
 2309.90.12 - - - Of a kind suitable for swine
 2309.10 - - - Dog or cat food, put up for retail sale
 2309.10.10 - - - Containing meat
 2309.10.90 - - - Other
 2309.90 - - - Other
 - - - Complete feed
 2309.90.13 - - -Of a kind suitable for prawns
 2309.90.14 - - -Of a kind suitable for primates
 2309.90.19 - - -Other
 2309.90.20 - - -Premixes, feed supplements or feed additives
 2309.90.90 - - -Other

It shall be automatically credited to a special account in the general fund of the national treasury which shall be in place within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act. *Provided*, that if the tariff collection from the corn and feed wheat importation exceeds three billion pesos (Php 3,000,000,000.00) in any given year within the next ten (10) years following the enactment of this Act, the excess tariff revenue shall be earmarked by Congress and added to the CCEF included in the GAA of the following year.

Provided, further, that the corn development fund, created under Presidential Memo No. 468, dated March 17, 1998, held in trust by the NFA, is hereby dissolved and the remaining balance is hereby transferred to the CCEF.

Provided, furthermore, that the allocation and utilization of the CCEF shall be subject to the guidelines below:

- a) The Secretary of the DA shall be accountable and responsible for the management and utilization of the said fund in coordination with other government agencies concerned;
- b) The amount allocated shall be released directly to the implementing agencies as provided for in this Act based on the objectives and plans of the Corn Industry Development Roadmap, created in Section 4 of this Act. *Provided*, that the unutilized portion of the CCEF allocated to the implementing agencies shall not revert to the general fund but shall continue to be used for the purpose for which it was set aside. Fund releases charged against the said funds shall not be subject to any ceiling by the Department of Budget and Management; and
- c) Any program undertaken in accordance with this Act shall only be deemed complementary and supplementary to and shall not be a replacement of any existing programs for farmers already implemented by the DA and other agencies concerned.

SEC. 9. Allocation and Disbursement of the Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. – Subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules

and regulations, the CCEF shall be allocated and disbursed, as follows:

Eighty percent (80%) for yellow corn production; Twenty percent (20%) for white corn and other indigenous corn varieties, which shall be respectively divided by both as follows:

- a) Eighty percent (80%) for mechanization of corn farms, to be implemented by Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) as grant in kind to eligible farmers' associations or organizations, registered corn cooperatives, and local government units in the form of corn farm equipment such as tillers, tractors, rotary seeders, sprayers, harvesters, corn shellers, mechanical dryers, and the like, and the establishment and improvement of post-harvest centers (including corn-silage facilities), and warehouses and/or silos;
- b) Five percent (5%) for corn seed research and development, promotion, and provision of high yield corn varieties;
- c) Five percent (5%) for credit facility with minimal interest rates and documentary requirements and no collateral requirements, to corn farmers and cooperatives, to be managed equally by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP);
- d) Five percent (5%) as direct financial assistance for corn farmers greatly affected by pest or diseases, natural disasters, or any tariff adjustments and modification, and may be based on the changes in the farmgate price, *Provided*, that the duration of the financial assistance is limited during corn harvest season where the corn farmers are adversely affected;
- e) Three percent (3%) for support extension and training activities to increase corn productivity, including training/capacity-building of beneficiaries for maintenance servicing, repair of machinery, and equipment;
- f) Two percent (2%) for organizing and clustering of smallhold corn farmers into formal groups, cooperatives or organizations, to be implemented by the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

SEC. 10. Beneficiaries of the CCEF. – The beneficiaries of the CCEF shall be those small-hold corn farmers, farmworkers, and their dependents listed in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), and corn farmer cooperatives, associations, or organizations accredited by the Department.

Provided, further, preferential attention should be given to small-hold corn farmers who are members of cooperatives, associations or organizations.

Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, in consultation with farmers' cooperatives and organizations, and LGUs, shall validate and update the master list of eligible beneficiaries to ensure that those listed are legitimate raisers, farmers, farmworkers, cooperatives, associations, and organizations.

SEC. 11. *Review of the Corn Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.*

– The following mandatory review of the CCEF shall be performed:

- a) The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) shall conduct impact evaluation of the CCEF programs to corn productivity on the second (2nd), third (3rd) and sixth (6th) year of the effectivity of this Act;
- b) The percentage allocation of the CCEF shall be reviewed on the third (3rd) year from the effectivity of this Act for possible revisions should intervention priorities change; and
- c) Before the end of the sixth (6th) year from the effectivity of this Act, a mandatory review shall be conducted by the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) to determine whether the CCEF and its utilization as provided for under this Act shall be continued, amended, or terminated. The increase or decrease in farmers' incomes shall be a primary benchmark in determining the effectiveness of the interventions under the program and its possible extension;

In view of its oversight function, the COCAFAM, at any time, may conduct an assessment of the implementation of programs and utilization of CCEF as directed under this Act.

SEC. 12. *Lifting of Export Restrictions on Corn.* – All laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, and other issuances imposing export restrictions on corn, except those related to the prevention and spread of plant, animal pests and diseases, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within forty-five (45) days from the effectivity of this Act, through the guidance of the Secretary of DA, the DA Undersecretary for Corn and the DA-National Corn Program shall, in coordination with the BPI, PhilMech, CDA, DBM, DBP, LBP and other government agencies concerned, formulate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders,

rules, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,