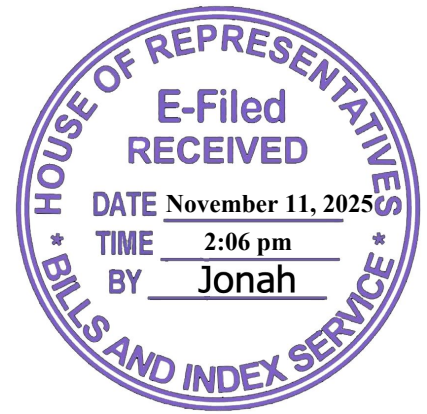


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5833



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA “AGAY” A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A nation’s strength is measured not only by the height of its buildings, but by the depth of its roots. For the Philippines, those roots lie in our key agricultural input: seeds. Our locally adapted seeds are the living archives of our ecological diversity, the silent engineers of our food security, and the first line of defense against climate shocks.

The proposed Sustainable Enhancement of Ecological Diversity (SEED) Act seeks to restore those roots by institutionalizing a National Seed Library System that preserves, cultivates, and democratizes access to locally adapted, culturally meaningful, and climate-resilient seeds. It envisions a country that not only grows food, but also grows traditional knowledge, resilience, and national dignity through the establishment of a nationwide network of seed libraries. These libraries shall collect, conserve, and exchange diverse seeds suited to local agro-ecological conditions, while promoting research, education, and innovation.

Recognizing that the seed sector is one of the cornerstones in promoting food security and nutrition, supporting livelihoods, and ensuring environmental sustainability,¹ this bill plants the institutional roots of food security, resilience, and sustainability for generations to come. It harmonizes existing programs on food security, climate adaptation, and indigenous knowledge preservation under a single coherent policy. It also empowers farmers, seed keepers, and the local community to participate in the stewardship of plant genetic resources through fair recognition and equitable benefit-sharing.

To plant a seed is to act in faith that tomorrow will come. To pass the Sustainable Enhancement of Ecological Diversity (SEED) Act is to ensure that when tomorrow comes, Filipino farmers will still have choices worth planting and the country will be resilient enough to harvest them.

¹ Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development (OECD), *The contribution of the seed sector to the triple challenge*. In: *Making Better Policies for Food Systems*, OECD, 2021, available at https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2021/01/making-better-policies-for-food-systems_0fd8c682/ddfba4de-en.pdf

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought, that this humble seed of legislation may take root and bear the fruits of resilience, biodiversity, and food security for generations to come.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5833

Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA “AGAY” A. CRUZ**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL SEED LIBRARY SYSTEM TO ENHANCE
FOOD SECURITY, PROTECT BIODIVERSITY, PROMOTE CLIMATE RESILIENCE,
AND STRENGTHEN ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND INNOVATION,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I
Introductory Provisions

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Sustainable Enhancement of Ecological Diversity (SEED) Act.”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to achieve sustainable food security, ecological resilience, and biodiversity conservation through the protection, development, and equitable use of locally adapted, culturally significant, and scientifically managed seeds and planting materials.

The State recognizes that seeds are strategic national resources, which serves as repositories of genetic diversity, indigenous knowledge, and agricultural innovation. Their preservation and accessibility are essential to national sovereignty, environmental balance, and inclusive growth.

To attain these goals, the State shall institutionalize community-based seed libraries as decentralized and participatory platforms for seed conservation, education, and exchange. These shall serve as mechanisms for agro-biodiversity enhancement, farmer innovation, and local economic resilience, and ensure the continued evolution of climate-resilient and culturally significant plant varieties.

Toward these ends, the State shall:

- (a) Empower farmers, seed keepers, indigenous cultural communities, and youth to participate in seed stewardship, innovation, and ecological education;
- (b) Integrate seed diversity conservation with biodiversity management, agricultural modernization, and educational systems, ensuring coherence across national and local development plans;
- (c) Promote research, innovation, and technology transfer that strengthen the viability and traceability of native and heirloom varieties while respecting traditional knowledge systems and intellectual property rights;
- (d) Ensure open and equitable access to seed information and germplasm resources consistent with data privacy, ethical standards, and international obligations; and
- (e) Foster cooperation with regional and global initiatives for the sustainable use of plant genetic resources and the fulfillment of the Philippines' commitments under international agreements.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Community Seed Exchange* refer to the voluntary sharing, lending, or bartering of seeds among farmers, households, or institutions to enhance biodiversity and community resilience.
- (b) *Indigenous Seeds* refer to traditional seed varieties developed and conserved by indigenous cultural communities and peoples.
- (c) *Heirloom or Traditional Varieties* refer to seeds passed down through generations by farming communities, valued for their distinct genetic, cultural, or culinary characteristics.
- (d) *Locally Adapted Seeds* refer to seed varieties that have evolved or been developed or selected for favorable performance under local agroecological conditions;
- (e) *National Seed Library System (NSLS)* refers to the nationwide institutional framework established under this Act to coordinate seed libraries at the national, regional, provincial, and local levels.
- (f) *Seed Custodian* refers to an individual or organization responsible for managing, maintaining, and facilitating the exchange of seeds within a seed library;
- (g) *Seed Library* refers to a community-managed facility for the collection, conservation, documentation, exchange, and propagation of locally adapted, traditional, or indigenous seeds and planting materials;

- 1 (h) *Seed Viability* refers to the capacity of a seed to germinate and produce a healthy
2 plant under favorable conditions.
3

4 CHAPTER II 5 National Seed Library System 6

7 **Section 4. *National Seed Library System.*** – There is hereby established a National
8 Seed Library System (NSLS) under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA)
9 to serve as the coordinating and policy institutional network for the conservation,
10 documentation, exchange, and distribution of seeds and planting materials in all levels of
11 governance and community participation.
12

13 The NSLS shall integrate all existing and future seed conservation initiatives,
14 public or private, under a unified framework that supports seed access, biodiversity
15 conservation, climate adaptation, and agricultural innovation, and food security.
16

17 (A) *Component.* The NSLS, as the coordinating, monitoring, and capacity-building
18 mechanism for all seed libraries in the country, shall be composed of the
19 following:
20

21 (1) National Seed Library Center (NSLC), which shall serve as the central
22 coordinating, data management, and policy oversight body of the NSLS,
23 established within the DA;
24

25 (2) Regional and Provincial Seed Libraries (RPSLs), which shall serve as the
26 operational units for seed collection, storage, distribution, and training;
27

28 (3) Local Seed Libraries (LSLs) are city, municipal, or barangay-level seed
29 libraries managed by LGUs, accredited organizations, or community
30 cooperatives; and
31

32 (4) Academic and Institutional Partners (AIPs) are universities, schools,
33 research institutions, and indigenous or community-managed seed
34 initiatives integrated into the NSLS through accreditation.
35

36 (B) *Governance and Coordination.* The DA shall issue implementing guidelines
37 defining the governance structure of the NSLS, including:
38

39 (1) The establishment of a National Steering Committee on Seed Libraries
40 (NSCSL) chaired by the DA and composed of the Department of
41 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Education
42 (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Department of
43 the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and three (3) representatives
44 from civil society, farmers' groups, and academic institutions;

(2) The designation of Regional Seed Library Coordinating Units within DA Regional Field Offices; and

(3) The creation of Local Seed Library Councils at the provincial and city/municipal levels, chaired by the respective LGU agricultural officers, with representation from farmers, cooperatives, indigenous peoples, and women, and youth groups.

Section 5. *National Seed Library Center.* – The NSLC shall:

(1) Develop and maintain national standards for seed collection, storage, and documentation;

(2) Manage the National Seed Library Information System (NSLIS) for real-time monitoring of seed inventories, diversity indices, and viability data;

(3) Serve as a clearinghouse for information exchange, research collaboration, and seed registry management;

(4) Coordinate with international seed banks and biodiversity repositories for germplasm exchange and technical cooperation; and

(5) Provide technical guidance and oversight to all NSLS components and consolidate performance reports.

The NSLC shall be responsible for the establishment, accreditation, and monitoring of seed libraries under the direction of the NSCSL, working with LGUs, SUCs, public schools, and community organizations.

Section 6. *National Seed Library Information System (NSLIS).* – The DA shall develop and maintain the NSLIS as a centralized and publicly accessible data and knowledge management digital platform to collect, consolidate, and visualize data from all accredited seed libraries. It shall:

(a) Include anonymized datasets on seed inventories, seed access, usage rates, replenishment rates, biodiversity indices, seed viability data, germination performance, and community participation for real-time monitoring;

(b) Be interoperable with existing databases maintained by the Bureau of Plant Industry, the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, SUCs engaged in seed research, and relevant data systems under the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT); and

- 1
2 (c) Adhere to national standards on data privacy, intellectual property rights, and
3 open government data protocols.
4

5 The NSLIS shall be publicly accessible and shall feature data visualization,
6 interactive dashboards, and a feedback mechanism to encourage citizen participation and
7 continuous program improvement, consistent with open government data standards,
8 data privacy laws, and intellectual property safeguards.
9

10 **Section 7. *Establishment of Seed Libraries.* –**
11

- 12 (a) The DA, in coordination with the DENR, DepEd, CHED, and DILG, shall lead
13 the phased establishment of seed libraries in all provinces, cities,
14 municipalities, and barangays, giving priority to areas with food insecurity,
15 climate vulnerability, or agricultural potential.
16
17 (b) Seed libraries shall serve as community-managed facilities as defined in Section
18 3(g), including food crops, native trees, climate-resilient varieties, medicinal
19 plants, and indigenous or heirloom species.
20
21 (c) The DA and partner agencies shall work with local government units (LGUs),
22 farmers' organizations, indigenous cultural communities, cooperatives, and
23 academic institutions to determine appropriate models, governance structures,
24 and sustainability mechanisms for seed libraries to ensure that these facilities
25 respond to local agricultural and ecological priorities.
26
27 (d) The DA, DENR and DepEd shall coordinate and organize seminars, workshops
28 and other training programs for the professional benefit of custodians of seed
29 libraries and shall issue rules and regulations, individually or jointly, in order
30 to support capacity building for seed collection, storage, and germination.
31

32 **Section 8. *Functions of Seed Libraries.* –** Seed libraries shall perform the following
33 core functions, subject to further detail in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR):
34

- 35 (a) Maintain and conserve a diverse inventory of viable seeds suited to local
36 conditions and agro-ecological zones, including food crops, traditional
37 varieties, and species critical to nutrition, climate resilience, and ecosystem
38 restoration;
39
40 (b) Facilitate equitable access to seeds through lending, exchange, or donation
41 programs, including provisions for emergency seed relief during disasters,
42 conflict, or supply disruptions;
43
44 (c) Preserve and transmit knowledge by documenting and promoting both

1 traditional and scientific practices in seed saving, germination, and
2 propagation;

3
4 (d) Serve as community learning hubs for capacity building, farmer education,
5 youth engagement, and extension services focused on seed stewardship, agro-
6 ecology, and climate-adaptive agriculture;

7
8 (e) Coordinate with national and international seed banks, genebanks, and
9 research institutions for access to genetic diversity, technical expertise, and
10 training resources; and

11
12 (f) Enable open access to non-sensitive seed-related data through digital
13 platforms, consistent with national open government data policies, including
14 anonymized datasets on seed usage, success rates, varietal diversity, and
15 community needs.

16
17 **Section 9. *Phased Implementation.*** – The implementation of this Act shall be
18 carried out in progressive phases to ensure coordination, capacity building, and
19 sustainability, as follows:

20
21 (a) *Pilot Phase.* Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the agencies
22 enumerated under Section 7(a) of this Act shall establish at least one (1) seed library in
23 each region of the country, preferably hosted by a regional DA research center, SUC, or
24 provincial LGU. These shall serve as regional learning and demonstration hubs for seed
25 conservation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

26
27 (b) *Expansion Phase.* Within the next two (2) years following the completion of the
28 Pilot Phase, the DA shall ensure the establishment of at least one (1) seed library in every
29 province, prioritizing provinces identified as food-insecure, climate-vulnerable, or
30 possessing significant agricultural potential.

31
32 (c) *Institutionalization Phase.* Upon full provincial coverage, the DA, in partnership
33 with LGUs, shall facilitate the establishment of seed libraries in every city and
34 municipality, integrating them into local agricultural, educational, and biodiversity
35 programs. Barangay-level seed libraries may be established subsequently, subject to
36 resource availability and demonstrated community readiness.

37
38 The results of each phase shall be subject to periodic evaluation by the DA and
39 reported to the Committees on Agriculture of both Houses of Congress. Such evaluations
40 shall inform subsequent phases of implementation and eventual nationwide scaling to
41 ensure alignment with local priorities and identify areas for improvement in coordination,
42 training, and resource mobilization.

43
44 **Section 10. *Implementation Strategy and Resource Sharing.*** – To ensure the

1 effective and sustainable implementation of this Act, the DA, in coordination with DENR,
2 DepEd, CHED, DILG, and LGUs, shall adopt a shared implementation strategy and
3 resource mobilization framework, guided by the following arrangements:

- 4
- 5 (a) *Lead Agency Mandate.* The DA shall serve as the lead implementing agency and
6 shall be responsible for overall coordination, technical supervision, and
7 integration of seed library initiatives within national agricultural and
8 biodiversity programs. It shall issue guidelines on accreditation, capacity
9 building, and performance evaluation.
- 10
- 11 (b) *Inter-Agency Collaboration.* The DENR shall provide technical guidance on the
12 conservation of native and wild plant species and the identification of agro-
13 biodiversity zones. The DepEd and CHED shall oversee the integration of seed
14 library activities into educational curricula, research, and extension services.
15 The DILG shall facilitate local government participation and capacity
16 development at the city, municipal, and barangay levels.
- 17
- 18 (c) *Local Government Role.* LGUs shall take the lead in the establishment, operation,
19 and maintenance of seed libraries within their jurisdictions, in coordination
20 with farmers' organizations, cooperatives, and academic institutions. Each
21 LGU shall integrate seed library development into its Local Agricultural and
22 Fishery Development Plan and allocate counterpart funds in its annual
23 investment program.
- 24
- 25 (d) *Resource Sharing.* Funding and resource contributions for the implementation
26 of this Act shall be shared among the national government, LGUs, and partner
27 institutions based on their respective functions. The DA shall prioritize
28 financial assistance to LGUs in the pilot and expansion phases, subject to
29 guidelines on equitable resource distribution, transparency, and performance
30 accountability.
- 31
- 32 (e) *Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships.* The DA and partner agencies may enter into
33 memoranda of agreement (MOAs) with academic institutions, civil society
34 organizations, private entities, and international development partners to
35 support research, innovation, and community capacity building.
- 36
- 37 (f) *Implementation Manual.* Within six (6) months from the approval of the IRR, the
38 DA, in consultation with the concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall issue
39 a Seed Library Implementation and Resource Manual outlining technical
40 standards, financial procedures, and reporting requirements for all
41 participating units.
- 42
- 43 (g) *Monitoring and Accountability.* The DA shall maintain a transparent reporting
44 and audit mechanism to track fund utilization, seed library performance, and

1 compliance with environmental and educational objectives. Annual reports
2 shall be submitted to Congress and made publicly available through the NSLIS
3 established under this Act.

4 5 CHAPTER III 6 Capacity Building and Technical Support 7

8 **Section 11. *Capacity Building and Education.*** – To ensure the effective and
9 sustainable operation of seed libraries, the DA, DENR, DepEd, and CHED, in
10 collaboration with technical institutions and LGUs, shall develop and implement a
11 comprehensive capacity building and technical support program for seed library
12 development and management.

13
14 Seed libraries shall be promoted as multi-use community knowledge centers,
15 supporting hands-on agricultural education, research, and skills development for
16 learners, farmers, and youth, and reinforcing the goals of food sovereignty, ecological
17 awareness, and local innovation.

18
19 **Section 12. *Training and Certification.*** – Through the Agricultural Training
20 Institute (ATI) and in partnership with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and
21 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), DA shall design and
22 conduct training programs on seed conservation, viability testing, documentation, and
23 seed library management.

24
25 The DA shall also develop a Seed Custodian Certification Program to recognize
26 individuals or organizations who meet prescribed standards of competence, stewardship,
27 and community service.

28
29 Funds for capacity building and technical support shall form part of the regular
30 appropriations of the DA and its attached agencies, with counterpart contributions from
31 LGUs and partner institutions. International and private sector assistance may also be
32 mobilized to supplement these efforts, subject to existing laws and accounting rules.

33
34 **Section 13. *Technical Assistance.*** – With the assistance of the Bureau of Plant
35 Industry (BPI), Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), and regional field
36 offices, DA shall provide continuous technical guidance to LGUs and community partners
37 on seed storage, pest and disease control, climate adaptation practices, and post-harvest
38 management.

39
40 **Section 14. *Knowledge Exchange and Extension.*** – The DA, DepEd, CHED, and
41 DENR shall jointly establish Seed Library Learning Hubs or regional centers of excellence
42 to serve as venues for research collaboration, extension services, and farmer education.
43 These hubs shall disseminate learning materials, toolkits, and digital content on agro-
44 biodiversity, seed saving, and sustainable agriculture.

Section 15. *Integration into Educational and Training Programs.* – The DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the DA, shall integrate the principles of seed stewardship, agroecology, and biodiversity conservation into basic and higher education curricula, as well as agricultural extension and vocational programs.

SUCs, TESDA centers, and public high schools offering agricultural tracks are encouraged to establish on-site or partner seed libraries as living laboratories for learning, research, and innovation.

Section 16. *Integration into Agricultural Extension Programs.* – The DA and LGUs shall integrate seed library management, seed conservation, and community seed exchange into existing agricultural extension services to ensure the participation of farmers, youth, women, and indigenous cultural communities.

Section 17. *Recognition and Incentives.* – The DA shall institutionalize an Annual Seed Stewardship Award to recognize exemplary individuals, LGUs, and organizations that demonstrate innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in seed library management and biodiversity conservation.

Section 18. *Biodiversity Conservation Linkages.* – The DA and DENR shall jointly identify and maintain priority agro-biodiversity zones where seed libraries shall be integrated with biodiversity conservation programs, including the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), protected landscapes, and reforestation initiatives.

The DA and DENR shall issue a Joint Administrative Order (JAO) to delineate their mandates and harmonize conservation, research, and community participation efforts.

CHAPTER IV

Incentives, Support Mechanisms, and International Cooperation

Section 19. *Fiscal Incentives.* – To promote active participation, innovation, and sustainability in the establishment and management of seed libraries, the following incentives and support measures are hereby instituted:

- (a) *Donations and Contributions.* All donations, endowments, or contributions in the form of seeds, planting materials, tools, equipment, facilities, or technical services made to duly accredited seed libraries shall be valued and exempt from donor's tax, and may be fully deductible from the gross income of the donor, as long as the seed library custodian and his or her immediate supervisor accepts the donation as needed for its operations and stocking, subject to rules to be issued by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in consultation with the DA.

- (b) *Tax-Free Importation.* The importation of seeds, specialized equipment, or materials necessary for seed library research, viability testing, or conservation shall be exempt from customs duties and value-added tax (VAT), subject to the approval of the DOF and applicable customs regulations.

Section 20. *Grants and Innovation Support.* – To promote innovation, inclusivity, and technological advancement in seed conservation, the DA, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and LGUs shall establish a Seed Innovation and Biodiversity Grant Program to:

- (a) Support research, product development, and technology transfer initiatives related to seed conservation, genetic diversity, and climate-resilient agriculture;
- (b) Encourage start-ups, cooperatives, and youth-led organizations to design locally adapted seed storage, mapping, and digital data management tools; and
- (c) Facilitate the documentation, validation, and promotion of traditional and indigenous seed knowledge systems.

To complement these efforts, the DA, in collaboration with DOST, SUCs, and LGUs, shall promote and provide technical and financial assistance for the development of innovative operational models such as:

- (a) Mobile or pop-up seed libraries;
- (b) Open-access digital seed databases and interactive mapping systems;
- (c) Community-based seed fairs, barter programs, and planting festivals; and
- (d) Climate-smart propagation units and adaptive varietal nurseries.

Section 21. *Access to Credit and Financing.* – Accredited seed libraries, cooperatives, and community organizations may access preferential credit programs through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) and government financial institutions such as the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The DA and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) shall develop guidelines for seed library-friendly financing.

Section 22. *Local Government Incentives.* – LGUs that demonstrate exemplary performance in seed library establishment, biodiversity conservation, or capacity-building initiatives shall be eligible for recognition under the Seal of Good Local Governance for Agriculture or equivalent incentive programs administered by the DILG and DA.

Section 23. *Recognition and Awards.* – The DA shall institutionalize the Annual National SEED Awards to honor outstanding seed libraries, custodians, educators, and

1 partner institutions that exhibit innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in
2 implementing the objectives of this Act. Awardees may receive grants, technical
3 assistance, or priority access to capacity-building and research programs.

4
5 **Section 24. *International Cooperation.*** – The State shall participate in regional and
6 international initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources
7 for food and agriculture, consistent with its obligations under international agreements.

8
9 The DA may enter into technical cooperation agreements, subject to existing laws,
10 to support research, exchange, and capacity-building on seed conservation and
11 community seed banking.

12 13 **CHAPTER V** 14 **Transition and Integration**

15
16 **Section 25. *National Seed Library Transition Task Force.*** – To ensure the smooth
17 implementation of this Act, the DA shall, within six (6) months from its effectivity,
18 organize a National Seed Library Transition Task Force, which shall:

- 19
20 (a) Oversee the integration of existing community seed banks, academic seed
21 collections, and NGO-managed initiatives into the NSLS;
22 (b) Identify priority pilot areas and resource requirements for the first year of
23 implementation;
24 (c) Recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture any interim administrative orders
25 necessary to operationalize Sections 7 to 9 of this Act pending full issuance of
26 the IRR; and
27 (d) Submit a Transition Report to the both Houses of Congress at the end of the
28 transition period.

29
30 The Task Force shall cease to exist upon the full establishment of the NSLC under
31 Section 5 of this Act.

32
33 **Section 26. *Inventory and Assessment.*** – To ensure policy continuity and
34 institutional coherence, the DA, through the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and in
35 coordination with the DENR, DepEd, CHED, and DILG, shall conduct a nationwide
36 inventory and assessment of existing community seed banks, seed libraries, genebanks,
37 school-based gardens, and related initiatives, programs, and facilities operated by public
38 institutions, local government units, non-government organizations, indigenous cultural
39 communities, academic institutions, or private entities within six (6) months from the
40 effectivity of this Act.

41
42 **Section 27. *Accreditation and Harmonization.*** – Upon completion of the
43 assessment, the DA shall issue accreditation guidelines to recognize qualified seed
44 libraries and seed banks as components of the National Seed Library System to ensure

1 that their operations conform to standards of viability, transparency, and community
2 participation established under this Act.

3
4 **Section 28. *Phased Integration.*** – Integration shall proceed in phases
5 corresponding to Section 9 of this Act. The DA shall ensure that no duplication of facilities
6 or functions occurs in any locality.

7
8 **Section 29. *Preservation of Autonomy and Identity.*** – Nothing in this Act shall be
9 construed to diminish the autonomy, customary practices, or community governance
10 systems of indigenous peoples, farmers’ organizations, or academic institutions that
11 manage seed collections. Integration shall respect cultural ownership, local innovation
12 systems, and intellectual property rights consistent with existing laws.

13
14 **Section 30. *Transition Reporting.*** – The DA shall include in its annual report to
15 Congress under Section 37 of this Act the progress of the transition and integration of
16 existing initiatives, including the number of accredited seed libraries, coverage by
17 geographic area, and identified gaps in infrastructure and capacity.

18 19 **CHAPTER VI** 20 **Appropriations and Funding Mechanism**

21
22 **Section 31. *Initial Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the
23 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA)
24 following its enactment into law and shall be continuously appropriated for a period of
25 five (5) years to support the establishment, operation, and capacity-building activities of
26 the National Seed Library System (NSLS). Thereafter, funding for the continued
27 implementation and maintenance of the System shall form part of the regular
28 appropriations of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and its concerned partner agencies.

29
30 **Section 32. *Allocation of Funds.*** – The DA, in consultation with the Department of
31 Budget and Management (DBM), shall determine the annual funding allocation for the
32 following components:

- 33
34 (a) Establishment and operation of the NSLC and regional or provincial seed
35 libraries;
36 (b) Capacity building, certification, and technical training under;
37 (c) Development and maintenance of the National Seed Library Information
38 System (NSLIS);
39 (d) Seed conservation, quality assurance, and documentation programs; and
40 (e) Research, innovation, and educational initiatives related to biodiversity and
41 agroecology.

42
43 **Section 33. *Local Government Counterpart.*** – Local government units (LGUs) shall
44 allocate counterpart funds in their annual investment programs to support the

1 establishment, maintenance, and staffing of local seed libraries within their jurisdictions.
2 Such funds may be sourced from the Local Development Fund (LDF) or other appropriate
3 local budget allocations.

4
5 **Section 34. *Public-Private and Academic Collaboration.*** – The DA may enter into
6 public-private partnerships (PPPs) and memoranda of agreement (MOAs) with
7 universities, registered agricultural enterprises, cooperatives, and research institutions for
8 the development of infrastructure, technologies, and knowledge-sharing platforms that
9 enhance the efficiency, transparency, and sustainability of seed library operations.

10
11 **Section 35. *Contingency and Disaster Support Fund.*** – A portion not exceeding ten
12 percent (10%) of the annual appropriation for the NSLS shall be earmarked as a
13 contingency fund for seed replenishment, emergency seed distribution, and post-disaster
14 recovery operations to ensure continuity of seed supply during natural calamities, pest
15 outbreaks, or other crises.

16 17 **CHAPTER VII** 18 **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Oversight** 19

20 **Section 36. *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.*** – The DA, in
21 coordination with other relevant agencies, shall establish an M&E Framework to assess
22 the implementation, performance, and impact of the National Seed Library System
23 (NSLS).

24
25 The framework shall include performance indicators on:

- 26 (a) Number, location, and operational status of seed libraries established;
27 (b) Volume, diversity, and viability of conserved and distributed seeds;
28 (c) Farmers, schools, and communities served;
29 (d) Level of participation by women, youth, and indigenous peoples; and
30 (e) Extent of integration into local development, education, and climate adaptation
31 plans.

32
33 **Section 37. *Annual Implementation Report.*** – Within ninety (90) days after the
34 close of each fiscal year, the DA, in coordination with the implementing agencies, shall
35 prepare and submit an Annual Report on the State of the Seed Libraries to the Committees
36 on Agriculture of both Houses of Congress. The report shall present a comprehensive
37 evaluation of the implementation and performance of the NSLS and its components, and
38 shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- 39
40 (a) The number, geographic distribution, and operational status of established
41 seed libraries;
42 (b) Types, quantities, and diversity of seeds collected, conserved, distributed, and
43 replenished;
44 (c) Indicators of seed viability, diversity, generic diversity, and utilization

- performance;
- (d) The conduct and outcomes of training programs, capacity-building activities, and community engagement initiatives;
- (e) Fund utilization, resource mobilization, and financial performance; and
- (f) Identified challenges, risks, and corrective measures undertaken; and
- (g) Recommendations for policy refinement, budgetary support, and programmatic improvement.

Section 38. *Public Transparency and Data Access.* – To promote open governance and citizen participation, the DA shall publish a public version of the annual report through the NSLIS, including anonymized, non-sensitive datasets on seed inventories, seed diversity indices, program beneficiaries, and seed library performance metrics, consistent with data privacy and intellectual property safeguards.

Section 39. *Congressional Oversight.* – The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform and the House Committee on Agriculture and Food shall conduct a Joint Oversight Review every two (2) years to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and policy impact of this Act. The DA and its partner agencies shall be required to present updates, performance assessments, and proposed improvements.

Section 40. *Citizen Feedback Mechanism.* – The DA shall establish a Citizen Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism within the NSLIS platform and through DA regional offices, enabling farmers, LGUs, and stakeholders to report issues, propose innovations, or request assistance related to seed library operations. Feedback received shall be incorporated into annual M&E reports.

Section 41. *Alignment with National Development Monitoring Systems.* – The M&E system under this Act shall be harmonized with existing performance monitoring frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators, and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) results matrices to ensure coherence and policy integration.

CHAPTER VIII

Final Provisions

Section 42. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from effectivity of this Act, the DA, in coordination with the DENR, DepEd, CHED, DILG, other concerned agencies, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

The DA shall lead the conduct of public consultations with representatives from LGUs, farmers' organizations, cooperatives, indigenous cultural communities, women's associations, academic and research institutions, and civil society organizations to ensure

1 that the IRR reflects participatory, science-based, and inclusive approaches to seed library
2 governance and management.

3
4 The IRR shall include, at minimum, provisions on:

- 5
6 (a) Standards for seed viability, documentation, storage, exchange, and emergency
7 seed relief;
8 (b) Accreditation and operation of seed libraries, including performance metrics
9 and reporting requirements;
10 (c) Implementation and resource-sharing protocols among national government
11 agencies, LGUs, and partner institutions;
12 (d) Data governance, including data management, interoperability, privacy
13 safeguards, and open government data standards for the NSLIS;
14 (e) Monitoring, evaluation, and audit mechanisms, including citizen feedback and
15 grievance redress; and
16 (f) Fair recognition of community seed knowledge, equitable benefit-sharing, and
17 non-infringement of proprietary varieties or technologies.

18
19 **Section 43. *Relation to Existing Laws.*** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to
20 supersede the provisions of Republic Act No. 9168, otherwise known as the “Plant Variety
21 Protection Act of 2002”, R.A. No. 8371, otherwise known as the “Indigenous Peoples’
22 Rights Act of 1997”, and Presidential Decree No. 1435.

23
24 In the implementation of this Act, the State shall recognize and protect the rights
25 of farmers, seed keepers, and indigenous cultural communities to save, use, exchange,
26 and sell farm-saved seeds and planting materials of traditional and locally adapted
27 varieties.

28
29 **Section 44. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
30 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
31 full force and effect.

32
33 **Section 45. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
34 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
35 repealed or modified accordingly.

36
37 **Section 46. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
38 completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

39
40 *Approved,*