



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



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6234

Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Corn Research Institute and appropriate funds therefor.

Corn is the second major crop in the Philippines and remains essential to both food security and national agro-industrial development. About twenty percent of Filipinos depend on white corn as a staple food, while yellow corn continues to serve as a primary component of animal feeds for the livestock and poultry sectors. In 2021, national corn production reached 8.83 million metric tons, and more than 1.16 million Filipino farmers rely on corn as their principal source of livelihood. Despite its importance, the corn industry has long suffered from fragmented research initiatives, limited access to modern technologies, weak extension systems, and the absence of a dedicated institution tasked solely with its development.

This bill seeks to address these longstanding gaps by establishing the Philippine Corn Research Institute (PhilCorn), a specialized body mandated to lead, coordinate, and strengthen all research, development, training, and extension activities for the corn sector. PhilCorn aims to modernize the corn industry through science-based and climate-resilient innovations in breeding, germplasm conservation, biotechnology, watershed and drought management, farm mechanization, post-harvest systems, pest and disease surveillance, value-adding technologies, and socio-economic and policy research. By unifying and streamlining these efforts, PhilCorn will ensure that research outputs effectively reach farmers and are translated into practical, sustainable improvements in the field.

A central objective of this proposal is to uplift the livelihood of corn farmers, most of whom are small-scale and resource-poor, by increasing productivity, reducing

production costs, promoting crop diversification and livestock integration, expanding value-adding opportunities, and strengthening entrepreneurial and technical capacities. PhilCorn will likewise build a national network of research centers, State Universities and Colleges, private sector partners, and international institutions to promote efficient collaboration and enhance the country's agricultural resilience. It will ensure that research and technology development are responsive to the specific needs of diverse agro-ecological zones.

Furthermore, the bill empowers PhilCorn with the institutional capacity necessary to fulfill its mandate, including corporate powers, authority to construct and operate facilities, and tax-free importation of essential equipment, along with a revolving fund to sustain its operations. Through strong farmer training and extension programs utilizing modern information and communication technologies, PhilCorn will promote effective technology adoption and strengthen the overall competitiveness of the corn industry.

In line with Article XIII, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution, which 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 "provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services," the establishment of the Philippine Corn Research Institute is long-overdue and necessary reform.

This bill represents a strategic investment in food security, rural development, and national economic growth. By creating a dedicated institution that will serve as the scientific and technological backbone of the corn industry, the State will finally be able to modernize the sector, strengthen value chains, and uplift the welfare of millions of Filipino corn farmers. It institutionalizes the technical support, innovation, and participatory governance envisioned by the Constitution, ensuring that agricultural development is not only productive but also inclusive and empowering.

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


CARLOS ANDRES LORIA



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1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CORN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
3 **AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
4

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

7 SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Corn*
8 *Research Institute Act.*”

9 SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the declared policy of the State to
10 provide support to agriculture and food security through appropriate technology
11 and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support
12 services. Towards this end, and in recognition of the vital role of the corn industry
13 in promoting rural income and ensuring national food sufficiency, the State shall
14 strengthen scientific and technological research on corn production and
15 utilization to enhance productivity and sustainability.

1 SEC. 3. ***Philippine Corn Research Institute.*** – The Philippine Corn
2 Research Institute, hereinafter referred to as “*PhilCorn*,” is established as a body
3 corporate attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA) and responsible for
4 modernizing the corn industry, improving the livelihood and household income
5 of resource-poor corn farmers and empowering them through science and
6 technologies to address low yields, droughts, floods, land degradation, global
7 warming, and other risks arising from environmental and climate changes.

8 The PhilCorn shall have its principal office in Cagayan Valley, or at any
9 other suitable site as the Board of Trustees may decide. It may also establish other
10 offices, branches, satellite offices, or subsidiaries as may be necessary to
11 accomplish its purposes and objectives.

12 SEC. 4. ***Duties and Functions.*** – The PhilCorn shall:

- 13 a. Develop and implement a strong, dynamic, and innovative farmer-
14 centered and need-based national corn research and development,
15 technology-sharing, training, and extension program;
- 16 b. Strengthen the national capacity for corn research and extension,
17 modernize production, utilization and industrial processing of corn and
18 corn-based crops, diversify harvests through sequential cropping to
19 sustain soil health and fertility, and enhance long-term productivity and
20 household income;
- 21 c. Work closely with regulatory agencies such as the Bureau of Plant
22 Industry (BPI), the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards

(BAFS), and private stakeholders and non-government organizations (NGOs) in the collection, conservation, and utilization of endemic or traditional corn varieties, and in the experimentation, planting, and monitoring of hybrid and genetically engineered varieties;

d. Improve the livelihood and economic conditions of small-scale and resource-poor farmers, especially those in the upland and dry-land ecosystems;

e. Develop and implement sustainable and environment-friendly corn and corn-based farming systems and evaluate vulnerable and marginal areas where crops other than corn may be more appropriate to grow;

f. Gather and provide reliable, up-to-date data to guide policymakers on corn improvement and development, import and export volumes, and develop strong linkages among stakeholders in promoting the national corn industry;

g. Expand employment opportunities through corn and corn-based farming systems in rural areas, and promote the general welfare of the people through higher efficiency and profitability in production, industrial product development, processing, and marketing;

h. Initiate and undertake related programs in consultation and partnership with the Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA–BAR), DA regional research centers (DA–RIARCs), Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Council for Agriculture,

- 1 Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST–
2 PCAARRD), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and private sector;
- 3 i. Unify, plan, fund, conduct, monitor, and evaluate corn research,
4 development, and technology promotion in different scientific and
5 technological fields and programs, including:
- 6 1. Germplasm collection, conservation, breeding, and
7 biotechnology;
 - 8 2. Natural resources management, watershed conservation, and
9 drought adaptation and mitigation;
 - 10 3. Corn engineering, farm mechanization, and post-harvest
11 management;
 - 12 4. Pest surveillance, early warning system, integrated pest
13 management, and biological control methods;
 - 14 5. Socio-economics, impact assessment, and policy advocacy;
 - 15 6. Technology packaging and demonstration, promotion and
16 deployment, training and communication;
 - 17 7. Processing and industrial-chemical products development; and
18 8. Corn-based farming systems, farm management improvement,
19 and experiment station development;
- 20 j. Unify, lead, fund, and coordinate a national network of corn and corn-
21 based farming systems research and extension agencies, centers, and

stations located in the different agro-ecological regions of the country where corn is a major crop;

k. Develop technologies suitable for the rain-fed, upland, and dry-land agro-ecosystems that maximize the productivity and quality of locally grown corn and corn-based crops while reducing production costs and ensuring long-term and sustainable corn and corn-based production systems through genetic improvement and environmental resources and conservation measures;

l. Develop suitable corn-based crops, livestock farming systems and crop rotations, where applicable, and corn technologies such as on-farm verification, processing, packaging, marketing, and promote economically viable technologies and entrepreneurial skills, including technologies and skills necessary for group endeavors of small-scale farmers, cooperatives, and seed growers;

m. Develop databases for the identification and preparation of necessary policy recommendations towards efficient, highly productive and competitive corn industry and corn-based farming systems through appropriate socio-economic measures and public-private sector mobilization and participation;

n. Organize and develop strong training and communication programs for corn and corn-based farming systems scientists, research managers, and extension specialists to enable them to undertake effective and timely

1 technology promotion of packaged technologies among clusters of
2 farmers and corporate growers by utilizing modern extension systems
3 such as information, education, and communication technology and
4 participatory social mobilization procedures; and

- 5 o. Publish and disseminate research and extension findings and
6 recommendations through scientific journals, books, technical and
7 extension bulletins, videos, and other print and communication media.

8 SEC. 5. ***Corporate Powers.*** – The PhilCorn shall exercise the following
9 corporate powers:

- 10 a. Adopt and use a corporate seal;
11 b. Sue and be sued in its corporate name;
12 c. Have perpetual existence unless a law provides otherwise;
13 d. Adopt its by-laws and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
14 necessary or proper to implement this Act, and amend or repeal the
15 same from time to time;
16 e. Enter into, make and execute contracts and agreements of necessary or
17 proper to implement this Act;
18 f. Borrow funds and obtain loans to help finance its research programs
19 and capital and operating expenditures, or support to farmer
20 entrepreneurial activities;
21 g. Invest in, purchase or otherwise acquire, own, lease, mortgage, pledge,
22 sell, assign, convey, exchange, encumber, borrow, or otherwise deal in

1 real or personal properties of whatever kind and nature, or any interest
2 therein, including shares of stock, bonds, notes, securities, and other
3 evidences of indebtedness of natural or juridical persons, as may be
4 useful, necessary or proper to serve the objectives of this Act;

5 h. Receive and acquire from any person, corporation, partnership,
6 association or other entity such charters, licenses, franchises, rights,
7 privileges, concessions, assistance, grants, donations, loans, and
8 contributions as may be useful, necessary or proper to finance its
9 research, capital and operating expenditures or otherwise carry out its
10 purposes and objectives, and administer the same in accordance with
11 the terms and agreement consistent with its purposes and objectives;
12 and

13 i. Acquire from the government or from any person, corporation,
14 partnership, association or other entity, such charters, franchises, rights,
15 privileges, assistance, financial or otherwise, and concessions as may
16 be conducive to and necessary or proper for the attainment of its
17 purposes and objectives.

18 SEC. 6. ***Board of Trustees.*** – The PhilCorn shall be governed by a Board
19 of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “*Board*,” which shall exercise all
20 corporate powers and functions, and control its business, activities, and
21 properties, composed of the following:

22 a. Secretary of Agriculture as chairperson;

- b. Secretary of Science and Technology as co-chairperson;
- c. Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research as vice-chairperson;
- d. Undersecretary for Operations of the Department of Agriculture;
- e. Undersecretary of the Department of Budget and Management;
- f. Undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform;
- g. Director of the Agriculture Division of the Department of Economy,
Planning and Development;
- h. Director of the DA-Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
- i. Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
Authority;
- j. Regional Executive Director of DA Regional Field Office (DA-RFO)
of the top corn-producing region;
- k. Three (3) university presidents from State Universities and Colleges
representing major corn-producing and corn-based agriculture regions,
one each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao;
- l. Four (4) private sector representatives, one each from:
 1. Corn farmers;
 2. Farmers' organizations, associations or federations;
 3. Private companies engaged in corn research and seed production;
and
 4. Livestock and poultry industry; and

1 m. Two (2) distinguished scientists from the public and private sectors as
2 members.

3 The credentials of private sector representatives shall be evaluated and
4 scrutinized by competent members of the Board.

5 The term of office of the four (4) private sector representatives is five (5)
6 years, without prejudice to reappointment for another five (5) years, based on
7 merit and excellent performance in the Board. The PhilCorn Executive Director
8 shall serve as Secretary of the Board. All government officials in the Board shall
9 serve as ex officio members and shall not receive any salary or compensation.

10 The chairperson, co-chairperson, vice-chairperson, and members of the
11 Board shall receive per diem for each Board meeting actually attended based on
12 existing accounting, budgeting and auditing laws, rules and regulations;
13 *Provided*, That such members are also entitled to reimbursable transportation and
14 representation allowances in going to and coming from Board meetings and in
15 transacting official business for PhilCorn.

16 The Board shall meet regularly at least once (1) every quarter, or as often
17 as the exigencies of the service demand. The presence of the chairperson, co-
18 chairperson, or vice-chairperson, and at least seven (7) members of the Board,
19 shall constitute a quorum, and the majority vote of the members present, there
20 being a quorum, is necessary for the adoption of any resolution, rule, regulation,
21 decision, or any other act of the Board.

1 **SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** – The Board shall exercise
2 the following powers and functions:

3 a. Adopt by-laws and promulgate policies, rules and regulations, and
4 procedures for the efficient and effective operation of the PhilCorn;

5 b. Define and guide the formulation of the vision, mission, strategy, and
6 research-extension priorities, general plans and programs, policies,
7 procedures, and guidelines for the proper operation and management of
8 the PhilCorn in accordance with its purposes and objectives;

9 c. Approve the PhilCorn organizational structure and staffing pattern,
10 operation and capital expenditures, and financial budget prepared in
11 accordance with its corporate plans;

12 d. Approve the plantilla and salary ranges, benefits, privileges, bonuses,
13 scholarship and manpower development, housing facilities and support
14 to staff, and other terms and conditions of service, including promotion
15 systems, life and medical insurances and retirement schemes or benefits
16 for all officers and employees of the PhilCorn, upon the
17 recommendation of the Executive Director, subject to existing civil
18 service laws, rules and regulations;

19 e. Appoint, promote, transfer, suspend, remove or otherwise discipline
20 any subordinate officer or employee of PhilCorn, upon
21 recommendation of the Executive Director;

- 1 f. Seek financial support from foreign donors such as Japan International
2 Coordination Agency, Korea International Cooperation Agency,
3 Australian Agency for International Development, and similar
4 institutions for the establishment and improvement of PhilCorn
5 infrastructures, laboratories, field experiment stations, and training or
6 scholarship of qualified personnel;
- 7 g. Create committees and appoint their members as may be necessary and
8 proper for the management of the PhilCorn or for the attainment of its
9 purposes and objectives; and
- 10 h. Exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary or proper
11 for the attainment of the purposes and objectives of the PhilCorn.

12 **SEC. 8. *Executive Director and Other Officers.*** – An Executive Director
13 shall head the PhilCorn, who shall be appointed by the President of the
14 Philippines, upon recommendation of the Board, based on the findings and
15 recommendations of a Search Committee duly organized and commissioned by
16 the Board for such purpose.

17 The Executive Director shall serve for a term of five (5) years, subject to a
18 one-term extension of five (5) years for very meritorious performance, or a
19 maximum total of ten (10) years without further extension: *Provided*, That the
20 Board, through a Search Committee duly organized at least four (4) months
21 earlier, shall choose a new Executive Director who shall immediately assume
22 office during a turn-over ceremony on the expiration date of the term of office of

1 the outgoing Executive Director: *Provided further*, That no Officer-in-Charge
2 shall be designated as head of the PhilCorn.

3 The Executive Director shall be assisted by two Deputy Executive
4 Directors, Division Heads, and Branch Station Directors or Managers as the
5 Board may determine, to carry out the purposes and objectives of the PhilCorn.

6 SEC. 9. ***Powers, Functions, and Duties of the Executive Director.*** – The
7 Executive Director shall:

- 8 a. Exercise dynamic leadership, create a vision, map out the mission,
9 provide strategic direction, and undertake systematic supervision over
10 the planning and implementation of all research, development,
11 technology-sharing programs, training and extension, upgrading of
12 scientists and staff of the PhilCorn and, in general, administer and direct
13 the management and operation in a transparent and corrupt-free
14 administration of the PhilCorn;
- 15 b. Execute all contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets,
16 and deliver documents on behalf of the PhilCorn within the framework
17 of the authority delegated by the Board;
- 18 c. Implement and enforce policies, decisions, orders, rules, and
19 regulations that are promulgated or adopted by the Board;
- 20 d. Arrange for the conduct of an External Program and Management
21 Review (EPMR) by a Panel of Experts every five (5) years or as often
22 as necessary in order to understand the output and impact of PhilCorn

1 programs to the farmers and stakeholders of the corn industry and to
2 provide guidance to management in charting the future of the Institute;
3 and

4 e. Exercise other powers and functions as may be authorized, assigned, or
5 delegated by the Board.

6 SEC. 10. *Technical Advisory Committee.* – A Technical Advisory
7 Committee (TAC), organized and approved by the Board, shall assist the
8 Executive Director, Division Heads, Program Directors, and Branch Station
9 Directors or Managers in pursuing inter-agency activities and participation in the
10 national research, development, and extension network.

11 The TAC shall be composed of not more than nine (9) members, or as the
12 Board may designate, who are heads, representatives, or scientists and experts of
13 agencies, government or private, that are actively involved in any critical aspect
14 of corn research, corn-based farming systems, seed quality certification, training
15 and extension, production and processing, marketing and consumption, policy
16 advocacy, and capacity building.

17 TAC members may be assigned to assist specific programs, divisions, or
18 branch stations as the services may require in achieving the goals and objectives
19 of PhilCorn.

20 SEC. 11. *Services of Government Personnel.* – The PhilCorn may, for the
21 purpose of its research, development, training, and extension activities, obtain
22 and secure the services of scholars, scientists and specialists in research, training,

1 extension, and communication of any unit, experiment station, institute or center
2 of the Department of Agriculture, University of Southern Mindanao, Central
3 Mindanao University, Visayan State University, University of the Philippines
4 Los Baños, Mariano Marcos State University, Isabela State University, Central
5 Luzon State University, and other agencies and universities of the national
6 government and foreign institutions.

7 Personnel of national and international reputation from public or private
8 institutions shall be designated as visiting scientists and research fellows for a
9 term of one (1) year to five (5) years to assist in conducting major research
10 problems of strategic importance and consequence in pursuing the goals and
11 objectives of the Institute. The selected personnel may receive honoraria or
12 incentives as may be authorized by the Board, subject to existing accounting,
13 budgeting and auditing rules and regulations.

14 SEC. 12. ***Buildings, Facilities, and Equipment.*** – The PhilCorn is
15 authorized to own, acquire, borrow, lease, plan, and construct or repair buildings,
16 laboratories, experimental farms, and other facilities as may be necessary to attain
17 its purposes and objectives. It may also utilize facilities of any unit of any
18 cooperating State Universities and Colleges, Department of Agriculture, and
19 national government agencies that engage in activities related to agriculture,
20 farming systems, corn production or product development in the corn industry.

21 Likewise, the PhilCorn is authorized to purchase equipment, materials and
22 articles as may be necessary to attain its purposes and objectives. It shall be

1 exempted from the payment of any and all forms of taxes, duties, fees and charges
2 on the importation of equipment, materials, articles, and services; *Provided*, That
3 the imported equipment, materials, articles and services are not available locally
4 on favorable terms.

5 The PhilCorn may expropriate lands for corn and corn-based farming
6 systems research and development purposes. If the land belongs to the
7 government or is inalienable, the concerned government agencies shall extend
8 support and ensure that such land is transferred to PhilCorn.

9 SEC. 13. ***Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
10 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of
11 the agencies represented in the Board. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
12 for the operation of PhilCorn shall be included in the annual General
13 Appropriations Act, which shall be automatically released.

14 All funds, savings, grants, and income of the PhilCorn shall constitute a
15 revolving fund and shall be used to achieve the purposes and objectives of this
16 Act.

17 SEC. 14. ***Technical Personnel.*** –All technical personnel shall be selected
18 on the basis of the highest possible standards of merit and fitness for public
19 officials and employees, and preferably holders of post-graduate degrees, as may
20 be determined by the Board.

21 SEC. 15. ***Legal Counsel.*** – The Office of the Government Corporate
22 Counsel shall serve as the legal counsel of PhilCorn. However, Philcorn may

1 establish its own legal division, subject to the supervision and control of the
2 Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, responsible for the day-to-day
3 legal matters affecting the affairs of PhilCorn.

4 SEC. 16. ***Annual Report.*** – The Board shall submit to the President of the
5 Philippines, through the Secretary of Agriculture an annual report, together with
6 the audit report on the relevant accounts, generally dealing with the activities and
7 operations of the PhilCorn.

8 SEC. 17. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared
9 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
10 remain in full force and effect.

11 SEC. 18. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules
12 and regulations, or parts hereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
13 repealed or modified accordingly.

14 SEC. 19. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

16 Approved,