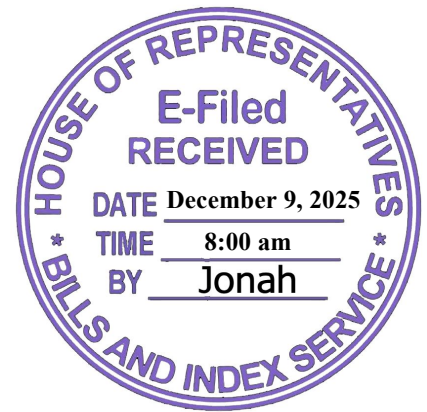


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



HOUSE BILL NO. 6673

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bamboo is one of the most versatile, renewable, and climate-resilient resources in the Philippines. It grows in almost every province, thrives in marginal uplands, and restores degraded soil. Yet despite its abundance and potential, the bamboo sector remains largely informal and fragmented. Farmers plant bamboo without assured markets, processors import materials despite local supply, and agencies operate separate programs without a single roadmap.¹

This bill seeks to establish a clear national framework that will strengthen coordination, sustainability, and competitiveness across the bamboo sector. It institutionalizes and expands the functions of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) created under Executive Order No. 879, Series of 2010,² and places it under the joint supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as core partners. The PBIDC will serve as the central policy-making and coordinating body for bamboo development programs nationwide.

At the heart of this measure are the country's farmers and rural communities. The bill recognizes bamboo as an agricultural commodity, enabling growers to access DA programs such as credit, crop insurance,

¹ Asian Development Bank. (2024, December 13). *Harnessing bamboo industries for green growth: Technical assistance report* (TAR No. 58493-001). <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58493/58493-001-tar-en.pdf>

² Executive Order No. 879, s. 2010. (2010). *Creating the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council*. https://lawphil.net/executive/execord/eo2010/eo_879_2010.html

inputs, and extension services. It establishes a Farmgate Incentive Program for newly established and verified bamboo plantations to assist farmers with the high cost of land preparation and planting during the first non-yielding years. The program shall be implemented through the regular appropriations of the DA and the DENR, in coordination with local government units.

The measure also directs DTI and DOST to expand Bamboo Innovation and Processing Hubs in coordination with regional and local bamboo councils, while the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) shall organize and strengthen Bamboo Growers' Cooperatives to promote shared facilities, training, and enterprise development.³ The bill aligns bamboo development with national priorities on reforestation, watershed protection, and climate adaptation. It supports the objectives of the National Greening Program and the Philippine Development Plan by promoting a sustainable green industry that contributes to carbon sequestration, livelihood generation, and inclusive economic growth.⁴

By strengthening the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council and institutionalizing a coherent national system from farm to market, from seedling to export, this measure ensures that every bamboo culm planted uplifts farmers' incomes, restores landscapes, and contributes to a more sustainable and resilient national economy.

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



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Lone District, Iligan City

³ Razal, R. (2022). *Enhancing sustainability and productivity of bamboo in the Philippines: Some initiatives*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362213415_Enhancing_Sustainability_and_Productivity_of_Bamboo_in_the_Philippines_Some_Initiatives

⁴ Gil, M. (2023, August 21). *PH to cultivate 'Bamboo Villages' to tap growing world demand*. Philippine News Agency. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1208245>

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 6673

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (PBIDC) CREATED UNDER EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 879, SERIES OF 2010, INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL
FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “**Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the sustainable development of the bamboo industry as a vital component of national growth, environmental protection, and rural livelihood.

The State recognizes bamboo as a renewable resource that contributes to climate resilience, watershed rehabilitation, carbon sequestration, and sustainable economic enterprise.

To this end, the State shall promote bamboo as an agricultural commodity and industrial material that generates employment, supports micro, small, and medium enterprises, and provides sustainable income for farmers, cooperatives, and community-based organizations. It shall pursue the integration of bamboo in national and local development plans,

encourage public-private partnerships, support research and innovation, and strengthen market access for bamboo products while ensuring ecological balance and long-term resource management.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* — For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. ***Bamboo Growers' Cooperative*** refers to any duly registered cooperative, association, or organization of farmers, planters, or community members engaged in the production, processing, or marketing of bamboo and bamboo products, accredited by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).
- b. ***Bamboo Industry*** refers to the entire value chain encompassing the propagation, cultivation, harvesting, processing, marketing, utilization, and export of bamboo and bamboo-based products, including activities that support research, innovation, and enterprise development.
- c. ***Bamboo Innovation and Processing Hub*** refers to a shared facility established or supported by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with local government units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), or private enterprises, which provides access to equipment, technology, research, and product development services for the bamboo industry.
- d. ***Council*** refers to the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) created under Executive Order No. 879, Series of 2010, as strengthened and institutionalized under this Act.
- e. ***Farmgate Incentive Program*** refers to the one-time support provided by the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Council, to qualified farmers, cooperatives, and agrarian reform beneficiaries establishing new bamboo plantations, in the amount of not less than ten thousand pesos (PhP 10,000.00) and not more than fifteen thousand pesos (PhP 15,000.00) per hectare, as verified by field offices of the DA.
- f. ***Local Bamboo Council*** refers to a coordinating body organized by the provincial, city, or municipal government, consistent with the

guidelines of the PBIDC, to oversee local bamboo programs, facilitate farmer participation, and align local initiatives with national strategies.

- g. ***Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap*** refers to the medium-term and long-term plan formulated and updated by the PBIDC, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, which outlines national strategies, targets, and performance indicators for bamboo production, processing, marketing, research, and innovation.
- h. ***Smallholder Farmer*** refers to an individual cultivator or member of a cooperative who directly engages in bamboo farming and manages not more than five hectares of land devoted to bamboo production.
- i. ***Sustainable Bamboo Plantation*** refers to an area cultivated with bamboo species suitable to local agro-climatic conditions, established in accordance with environmental safeguards and the technical standards set by the DA, the DENR, and the Council.

SECTION 4. *Reconstitution and Strengthening of the Council.* — The PBIDC created under Executive Order (EO) No. 879, Series of 2010, is hereby reconstituted and strengthened to serve as the primary policy-making and coordinating body for the sustainable development of the bamboo industry pursuant to this Act.

The Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. Chairperson – Secretary of the DA;
- b. Co-Chairperson – Secretary of the DENR;
- c. Vice Chairperson – Secretary of the DTI;
- d. Members – the Secretaries or duly authorized representatives of the following agencies:
 - 1. Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
 - 2. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
 - 3. Department of Education (DepEd);
 - 4. Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
 - 5. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
 - 6. CDA; and

7. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

- e. Local Government Representatives – one representative each from the League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and League of Municipalities of the Philippines.
- f. Farmer and Community Representatives – two representatives from duly registered bamboo farmers' cooperatives or community-based organizations, to be nominated by the Council and accredited by the CDA.
- g. Private Sector Representatives – two representatives from bamboo industry associations, one each representing the manufacturing and handicraft sectors.

The Council may invite other agencies or organizations to participate as non-voting members when necessary.

The Council shall meet at least once every quarter, or as often as may be necessary, to deliberate and decide on policy and program matters. A majority of all its members shall constitute a quorum.

The Council shall be assisted by a Permanent Technical Secretariat, to be lodged under the DA in coordination with the DENR, with personnel seconded from partner agencies. The Secretariat shall provide technical, administrative, and logistical support, maintain the national bamboo database, and perform such other duties as the Council may assign.

SECTION 5. *Additional Powers and Functions of the Council.* — In addition to the powers and functions provided under EO No. 879, Series of 2010, the PBIDC shall:

- a. Formulate and regularly update the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap, setting measurable targets and performance indicators for production, processing, marketing, research, and innovation;
- b. Recommend the inclusion of bamboo development programs, including the Farmgate Incentive Program, in the annual budgets and work plans of the DA, the DENR, and other concerned agencies;

- c. Coordinate with LGUs, SUCs, and private sector partners in the implementation of bamboo industry programs to ensure coherence between national and local initiatives;
- d. Promote research, technology transfer, and product standardization, and establish a National Bamboo Database for planning, monitoring, and evaluation;
- e. Facilitate the establishment of Bamboo Innovation and Processing Hubs and similar facilities in partnership with the DTI, the DOST, and other relevant institutions;
- f. Support the organization and capacity-building of Bamboo Growers' Cooperatives and local bamboo councils to enhance farmer participation and enterprise development; and
- g. Monitor and evaluate the compliance of concerned agencies with the bamboo-use and planting directives prescribed under EO No. 879, Series of 2010, and this Act.

SECTION 6. *Technical Secretariat and Executive Committee.* — To effectively carry out the policy and program decisions of the Council constituted under Section 4, the following support mechanisms are hereby established:

- a. **Technical Secretariat.** — The Council shall be assisted by a Permanent Technical Secretariat lodged under the DA, in coordination with the DENR and the DTI. Personnel may be seconded from member agencies and augmented through regular plantilla positions of the DA.

The Secretariat shall provide administrative, technical, and logistical support to the Council; maintain and update the National Bamboo Database; consolidate reports from concerned agencies and LGUs; monitor the implementation of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap and other programs approved by the Council; and prepare the Council's annual report to Congress.

- b. **Executive Committee.** — An Executive Committee is hereby constituted to assist the Council in the performance of its functions and the execution of its policies and programs, consistent with EO No. 879, Series of 2010. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the

Undersecretary for High-Value Crops and Rural Credit of the DA, with co-chairs from the Undersecretary for Field Operations of the DENR and the Undersecretary for Regional Operations of the DTI.

The Executive Committee shall act on matters delegated by the Council, ensure inter-agency coordination, supervise the work of the Technical Secretariat, and prepare the agenda, documentation, and policy recommendations for Council meetings.

- c. **Regional and Local Mechanisms.** — The Council may organize Regional Bamboo Industry Development Councils and designate corresponding focal persons from the DA and the DENR to coordinate local bamboo programs, enterprise development, and data collection in partnership with LGUs and regional offices of concerned agencies.

SECTION 7. *Implementation and Coordination Mechanisms.* — To ensure the effective implementation of this Act, the following coordination mechanisms shall be observed:

- a. **Lead Implementing Agencies.** — The DA and the DENR shall serve as the co-lead implementing agencies of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program, with the DTI providing enterprise and market-linkage support.

The DA shall oversee bamboo propagation, plantation development, and the administration of the Farmgate Incentive Program. The DENR shall integrate bamboo into reforestation, watershed, and landscape restoration programs, while ensuring compliance with environmental safeguards. The DTI shall facilitate industry upgrading, shared-service facilities, innovation hubs, and product marketing.

- b. **Program Alignment.** — Consistent with the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and the Public Investment Program, all concerned national government agencies shall align their plans and budgets with the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap as approved by the Council. Annual agency work and financial plans shall include bamboo-related targets, consistent with the objectives of this Act.
- c. **Local Government Participation.** — Provincial, city, and municipal governments shall designate focal persons or local bamboo councils to coordinate with regional offices of the DA and DENR. Local governments shall integrate bamboo industry development activities

into their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and Local Development Investment Programs (LDIPs) and may allocate local funds to support propagation, processing, and enterprise development.

- d. Partnerships with SUCs. — SUCs shall serve as partners in research, capacity-building, and the establishment of bamboo nurseries, innovation centers, and demonstration farms, in coordination with the DOST and the TESDA.
- e. Private Sector and Community Participation. — The Council shall encourage partnerships with private enterprises, cooperatives, and community organizations for plantation establishment, processing, and marketing of bamboo products under inclusive business arrangements.
- f. Monitoring and Evaluation. — The Council, through the Technical Secretariat, shall develop and maintain a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework, to track performance indicators under the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap and submit an annual report to Congress and the Office of the President.

SECTION 8. *Funding and Appropriations.* — The implementation of this Act shall be funded from the annual appropriations of the concerned agencies, subject to the usual government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

The DA, the DENR, and the DTI shall include in their respective annual budgets the funding requirements necessary for the implementation of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap, the Farmgate Incentive Program, and the operation of the Technical Secretariat of the PBIDC.

To ensure convergence and avoid duplication, the Council shall coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDEV), and other relevant agencies in aligning budget proposals for bamboo-related programs and projects under existing mechanisms such as the Public Investment Program and the Annual Investment Plan.

LGUs may likewise allocate funds from their local development plans to support bamboo propagation, enterprise development, and other activities consistent with this Act.

SECTION 9. *Incentives and Support Programs.* — To encourage investment, enterprise development, and sustainable livelihood in the bamboo industry, the following incentives and support programs shall be implemented by the concerned agencies in coordination with the Council:

- a. **Farmgate Incentive Program.** — The DA, in coordination with the DENR and the Council, shall implement a Farmgate Incentive Program providing support to qualified farmers, cooperatives, and agrarian reform beneficiaries establishing new bamboo plantations. Incentives shall be provided in the form of direct cash support, planting materials, or technical assistance, equivalent to not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00) and not more than Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 15,000.00) per hectare of newly planted areas verified by field offices of the DA.
- b. **Credit and Financial Assistance.** — The Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, and other government financial institutions shall develop special credit windows and financing programs for bamboo growers, cooperatives, and processors, consistent with their respective mandates and credit policies.
- c. **Market Access and Enterprise Development.** — The DTI shall assist bamboo enterprises in product development, quality certification, and market linkage through the establishment of Shared Service Facilities and participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, and export promotion programs.
- d. **Research, Training, and Capacity Building.** — The DOST, the TESDA, and SUCs shall strengthen bamboo-related research, skills training, and technology transfer programs in coordination with the Council.
- e. **Integration with Environmental Programs.** — The DENR shall include bamboo in its reforestation, watershed rehabilitation, and climate-resilient livelihood programs and ensure the availability of planting materials through its nursery network.
- f. **Tax and Non-Tax Incentives.** — Bamboo-based enterprises registered under existing laws such as the Omnibus Investments Code, the Go Negosyo Act (RA 10644), and the Magna Carta for Micro, Small, and

Medium Enterprises (RA 9501) shall be entitled to all applicable incentives provided therein.

SECTION 10. *Reporting and Accountability.* — To promote transparency, accountability, and evidence-based policymaking, the PBIDC, through its Technical Secretariat, shall prepare and submit an Annual Report on the implementation of this Act to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and to both Houses of Congress.

The report shall include:

- a. The progress of implementation of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap, including physical and financial accomplishments, and measurable outcomes on production, processing, trade, and employment;
- b. The number, area, and location of newly established bamboo plantations supported under the Farmgate Incentive Program and other initiatives;
- c. The performance of national agencies and LGUs in integrating bamboo into their respective programs and budgets;
- d. The status of research, innovation, enterprise development, and capacity-building activities supported by concerned agencies and institutions; and
- e. Policy recommendations for further strengthening the bamboo industry and improving the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination.

The Annual Report shall be submitted not later than April 30 of every year to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Committee on Agriculture and Food of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform of the Senate, and shall be made accessible to the public through the official websites of the DA, the DENR, and the DTI.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PBIDC, through the DA, in coordination with the DENR, the DTI, and other concerned agencies and

stakeholders, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The IRR shall define operational guidelines, performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation systems, and institutional arrangements among national government agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and private sector partners.

In the formulation of the IRR, the Council shall ensure consultation with farmers' organizations, bamboo cooperatives, industry associations, and relevant civil society groups to promote participatory and inclusive implementation.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Transitory Provision.* — Upon the effectivity of this Act, the PBIDC established under EO No. 879 shall continue to exercise its existing powers and functions, and shall, within ninety (90) days, undertake the necessary adjustments in its composition, structure, and operations in accordance with this Act.

All ongoing projects, programs, and activities of the PBIDC and its member agencies shall be aligned with the provisions of this Act and the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap.

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

Approved,