

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6919



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution calls on the State to promote social justice, strengthen agriculture, and ensure food security as foundations of national development. Through laws such as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act and the Sagip Saka Act, Congress affirmed that farmers and fisherfolk must share in the fruits of growth through modern, resilient, and inclusive agricultural enterprises.

Malunggay stands as a powerful yet underutilized resource within this vision. It is widely grown across the country, thrives even in marginal lands, and is recognized worldwide for its exceptional nutritional and economic value. *Malunggay* has the potential to address malnutrition, generate sustainable livelihoods, and create high value products for domestic and export markets. Yet despite rising global demand, the local *malunggay* industry remains fragmented, informal, and unsupported by a clear national framework.

This bill seeks to unlock that potential by establishing a National Program for the *Malunggay* Industry and a dedicated body to guide its development. By coordinating research, standards, production, processing, and market promotion, the measure will empower farmers, strengthen rural enterprises, and position *malunggay* as a flagship Philippine product. In doing so, it advances food security, rural development, and inclusive growth.

In the Nineteenth Congress, the House of Representatives approved a similar measure on Third Reading as House Bill No. 11429 on June 4, 2025.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MALUNGGAY INDUSTRY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to accelerate the growth and development of the *malunggay* industry to improve investment climate, boost competencies and efficiency of agribusiness, promote *malunggay* as a source of livelihood, and maximize its utilization for health and nutrition. *Malunggay* or moringa oleifera is a commonly cultivated plant in the Philippines and is known not just for its nutritional value but for its medicinal herbal effects. It has been gaining international recognition as a superfood due to its health benefits.

To this end, the State shall establish productivity improvement programs, provide the needed infrastructure support, extension services, and financial assistance and enhance research and development on product diversification to qualified farmers, cooperatives, institutions and industries who are willing to cultivate *malunggay*.

SECTION 3. *Malunggay* Industry Development Committee. — To carry out the policies enunciated under this Act, there is hereby established a *Malunggay* Industry

Development Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee. It shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Chairperson;
- (b) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- (d) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
- (e) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- (f) Secretary of the Department of Education;
- (g) One (1) representative from State Universities and Colleges (SUC);
- (h) One (1) representative from farmers' groups actively working with the *malunggay* industry; and
- (i) One (1) representative from private sector organizations actively working with the *malunggay* industry.

The nominees of the SUCs, farmers' groups, and the private sector shall be validated by the DA and submitted to the President not later than thirty (30) days following the effectivity of this Act. The President shall appoint the representative from a list of nominees submitted by the DA.

The government representatives shall serve only during their respective terms in office. The representatives from the farmers' groups and the private sector shall each hold a term of three (3) years unless sooner removed for cause, and may be reappointed once: *Provided*, That any appointment to fill a vacancy in the Committee shall be only for the unexpired term. They may appoint an official alternate with a rank of an Undersecretary or its equivalent. The official alternates shall possess the same powers as the Heads of the above-named national government agencies and whose acts shall be considered as acts of the principals being represented.

The Committee shall coordinate with the various organizations that are known to be experts in the industry to organize the *Moringa* producers, processors, inputs producers and suppliers, domestic and international marketers, and traders as well as allied and related industries and aggrupation into an umbrella organization.

The Committee may also call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, and instrumentality of the government for any assistance it may need in the discharge of its functions and responsibilities.

SECTION 4. Role of Various Government Agencies. — Government agencies shall prioritize the development of Philippine National Standards and its harmonization with relevant international and regional standards and equivalence. The DA for primary and postharvest moringa produce, DOH for processed moringa products, and DTI for non-food industrial moringa products.

The Department of Finance shall, in collaboration with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation, Board of Investments, and Philippine Economic Zone Authority, provide the financing modalities and mechanisms for funding the loan requirements of the *moringa*-based industries.

The DA, DOST, SUCs, in collaboration with other industry players, shall identify the species, breeds, or variant, if any, that may be appropriate for the development of *malunggay*-based products. Said agencies shall also establish *malunggay* processing facilities within the area determined by DA as appropriate planting areas for *malunggay*.

The DA shall likewise determine proper agriculture practices and suitable planting areas for *malunggay* which must conform to Food and Drug Administration, DTI, and industry approved standards.

SECTION 5. *Malunggay* Framework for Development. — The Committee shall formulate a five-year *Malunggay* Framework for Development, to be validated and updated annually. Such Framework shall serve as a guide for a harmonized and collaborative implementation of policies, programs and projects for the advancement, industry-wide development, and inclusive growth of the Philippine *Malunggay* Industry, as follows:

- (a) ***Productivity Improvement Programs.*** To boost the production of *malunggay*, the following activities shall be undertaken:
- (1) Identify the species, breeds or variants, if any, to be used and developed under this Act;
 - (2) Appropriate land usage in suitable areas to increase and sustain its productivity and agricultural output;
 - (3) Establish systematic programs that could improve production through its seeding, cultivation, harvesting and proper processing;
 - (4) Create communal fields and gardens for those in the marginalized or rural areas to address their problems in food and health care; and

(5) Initiate alternative livelihood projects for poverty alleviation.

(b) **Research and Development.** The Committee, in coordination with government research and development institutions, relevant SUCs, and the private sector, shall intensify research on the propagation of *malunggay* to maximize and validate its nutritional and medicinal properties, and to expand its other possible uses. To attain these, the following activities shall be undertaken:

- (1) Facilitate knowledge sharing on relevant studies on *malunggay*, particularly those that are funded by the government in support of the development of standards and issuance of relevant policies and regulations;
- (2) Conduct research to support the development of science-based standards and technical regulations for the *malunggay* industry;
- (3) Survey *malunggay*'s potential in the international markets and prepare it as one of the Philippines' major commercial products, particularly in the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, and cosmetic exports;
- (4) Develop the *malunggay* food industry by including the various parts of the plant in food preparation, various recipes and diet for health benefits;
- (5) Explore the possibility of *malunggay* as a useful agricultural input (fertilizer) and animal feeds; and
- (6) Invest in the biofuel potential of *malunggay* oil as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel for the country's power generation and in the development of new products derived from it.

(c) **Market Promotion and Development.** The Committee, together with the concerned government agencies and industry stakeholders, shall endeavor to:

(d) **Extension services.**

- (1) Encourage and train *malunggay* farmers to utilize appropriate agricultural machineries and equipment necessary for the efficient planting, cultivation, care and maintenance, harvesting and handling of *malunggay* and its by-products;
- (2) Ensure the availability of good seeds and materials to ensure high yield and good quality *malunggay*.

All other programs that shall help attain the objectives of this Act and those that shall complement existing programs are also encouraged.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Malunggay* Industry Roadmap. — Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Committee shall, in consultation with all the industry players, prepare the *Malunggay* Industry Roadmap. The Committee may call upon any instrumentality of government for any assistance it may need in the discharge of its functions as well as in the implementation of the programs and projects.

The Committee shall, in coordination with other concerned government agencies, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders update the Roadmap every five (5) years, or sooner as may be deemed necessary.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within thirty (30) days from the date of the constitution of the Committee, it shall formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,